ARCHBISHOP MANOOGIAN ASSEMBLY REMARKS

It is a special pleasure for me to be here today, taking part in this Annual Assembly. Our people represent one of the oldest surviving races of mankind. Our Church is an ancient one.

But it is the qualities of youth that keep us going ... the qualities of optimism, of energy, of perserverance and idealism that drive the Armenian dream and have kept it alive across the ages, through suffering, through martyrdom and through the havoc of human history.

To be an Armenian -- to carry both the blessings and the burdens of our heritage -- is no small undertaking. It is a challenge, a never-ending test, for each new generation. This is because the culture, the faith, the heritage built up over thousands of years can be lost in a single generation.

The threat can take many forms: Repression, dispersion, even genocide. At many times in our history, the thread of our being was nearly severed. Yet we have survived. We have survived because, even in the darkest moments, hope triumphed over despair, faith conquered doubt, and disaster gave way to renewal.

Yet the struggle goes on. Each new generation must fight its own fight, in its own way, in its own time. And that includes your generation -- in many ways the

brightest and most fortunate generation of Armenians ever born into the world.

So my question for you today -- my challenge for you -is this: "Where do we go from here?"

Where do you, as the hope and future of our church and our culture, intend to take us?

You are the children and the grandchildren of the survivor generation, the people who stared death in the face and went on to build a new life. Out of death, life, out of darkness, light -- like the miracle of creation itself.

The threats that faced your parents and grandparents are not your threats. The sword of physical destruction no longer hangs over us as a people, as a community of the faithful.

But there are other dangers, more subtle, but no less real.

Physical survival alone is no guarantee of spiritual survival. The soul of a people must also be nourished and renewed if it is to live on.

This is the greatest challenge of the Armenian Diaspora. And this is the challenge that falls squarely on your shoulders.

Affluence, tolerance, opportunity ... the very things we cherish in this free society, if misunderstood, if

abused, can turn destructive.

The siren song of the good life enjoyed by Armenians in safe havens like America has a real potential for leading us astray.

The roots of our culture run deep. Its vines have spread and flourished around the world. But like the vines of our ancient vineyards, they require constant tending and lasting devotion.

Extinction through assimilation can be just as real a threat as extinction through genocide.

It is up to you to hold firm your grip on what it means to belong to an ancient but advanced people, to read and speak our ancient but living language and to carry on the faith of our first Christian Fathers.

It can be done. It is being done. You are doing it.

We feel your energy and power.

We are inspired by it.

I am here today to stress just how important your energy, your power, your imagination are to the survival and prosperity of our people and our faith.

What the Armenian Church asks of you, its young people, is a blend of spiritual strength and a striving after excellence. Your education is critical to the future of your Church and your culture. Ignorance is the armor of the weak; education is power. Your community has nurtured you since birth. Becoming the best you can be is the finest way of repaying that debt.

Every day, I draw new hope and Inspiration from the way you are repaying that debt.

The beauty of Armenian faith and example is that personal success need not take a back seat to personal faith. For most of you, membership in the ACYOA is an affirmation of your commitment to your church and your far-flung people.

For this we are grateful to God.

The young have always had a refreshing voice in church affairs, but there is always room for improvement. We want to hear from you. We want you to tell us about ways in which our clergy and our young people can better talk with each other.

There is an old saying -- and some would claim that it is all too true -- that when you put two Armenians in a room together, they will soon divide into at least three factions. But that can be a blessing as well as a curse.

We welcome diversity and we welcome discussion.

It is our desire that in the year ahead we can visit

university campuses across the Diocese, meeting and talking with as many of our youth as possible. Many colleges now offer the Armenian language as a credit course. We urge those of you with access to such courses to take advantage of them.

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Through our heritage programs, the Church is endeavoring to maintain our ancient and beautiful language in its spoken, sung and written forms. This will be made much easier by the continuance and expansion of an articulate, bilingual community, especially among the young.

In this, as in so much else, you are the key.

As you partake of the cameraderie and competition of this annual event, never lose sight of this crucial fact.

The Armenian people look to you as their hope for the future, for faith, for culture, for homeland.

Thank you, and may the Lord guide us in our service and fellowship, and may His blessings remain with each one of us in all the days of our lives. ADDRESS BY HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP TORKOM MANOOGIAN, PRIMATE AT ACYOA GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPORTS WEEKEND, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1988

Members of the ACYOA Assembly and clergy, distinguished guests...

This year has surely been an eventful one in the history of the ACYOA and our Diocese. The proceedings yesterday and this morning give full credence to what we all know: the ACYOA is a growing, vibrant organization, opening new vistas of understanding and opportunity to bring young Armenian-Americans into the mainstream of their ancient faith and cultural heritage.

You here in this room are a very special group of people. We have said this before but it cannot be overemphasized: you belong to that cadre of dedicated individuals who provide the leadership that is so vitally needed if our people are to survive and grow as Armenian Christians. Each of you, in his and her own way, is reaching out to bring others into the fold, to awaken them to the awareness of their uniqueness as individuals, and as Armenians.

In the past, we have spoken of the need for more commitment, more dedication, more interest on the part of our young people. They must not forget their Armenian roots, the faith, the language of their forefathers, their ancient cultural heritage. Now we can speak of brand new opportunities in the ACYOA to express that commitment to the fullest. The ACYOA's fundraising efforts have culminated in new programs and revitalized efforts. And helping to make these new programs reality have been the generous donations of many noted benefactors of the Church.

Last year, there were only two major programs. In 1988-89, we have six. These range from explorations into the Armenian faith and enchancing personal growth through religious involvement, to leadership seminars, exciting sports weekends, and cultural activities. They include enlightening forays into Armenian history, art, language and culture. There are also sessions on developing leadership and management skills, and imparting this rich knowledge to others. Together, these programs give our youth the opportunity to inter-face on current issues, to meet their peers, to exchange ideas, to reach out to fellow Armenians across America with the message of kinship and oneness.

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As the nucleus of the ACYOA leadership, you face many challenges. The opportunities created through the growth of the ACYOA and its services will help you to overcome these challenges. And they are formidable indeed.

We speak about the challenges of the greater society in which we live often and with some trepidation. In spite of all our efforts -- in spite of our collective dedication and your hard work -- the problems remain. The affluence of this great country, the so-called "melting pot" concept, the emergence of detrimental lifestyles and -- very importantly -- the breakdown in religious and moral values -- continue to take their toll. Many of our Armenian youth -- indeed much American youth -- is being swallowed up in the faceless cultural and social morass. Of course, there are constructive values in American society. The freedoms we enjoy are unique in the world. But it would be a great disservice to their faith and heritage if our youth were to become so enmeshed in the counterproductive forces confronting American society that they loose their Armenian identity. Indeed, the opportunity to preserve that identity, and yet participate to the fullest as patriotic, socially-conscious citizens, is one of the great benefits of the democratic system this nation offers us.

Opportunity, therefore, is the key word. And as the ACYOA opens up new avenues of opportunity for participation as Armenian Christians, so too will the influence of the organization grow in expanding its membership rolls. These opportunities enable each of you to reach out to your fellow Armenians with the message of faith: come join us. We welcome you as fellow Armenians. We need your participation to help strengthen our Church and our community.

The ACYOA is giving you the opportunities. You have the tools. As a body, you represent the most educated and sophisticated generation in the history of our people in America. We also see more and more young women joining the ACYOA's ranks. They are educated. They are active and persuasive. They bring a welcome new dimension to our community affairs and ACYOA leadership potentials.

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We hear much of intermarriage and disinterest on the part of many of our young people in their Armenian background. They are your biggest challenge. They will take the most convincing. They will demand most of your efforts, your hard-work. But let us not forget that the potentials are there. And in our experience, the potentials are real.

During this past year we shared observations in meetings with various ACYOA groups. These included the young men and women who participated in the ACYOA Summer Studies Program in Armenia, and the Summer Intern Program at the Diocese. What is clearly evident is that these young people are very Armenian. Their language skills may falter at times, but their hearts do not. Sacred Mount Ararat shines in bright eyes. Our ethnic heritage is ingrained in their bone and sinew. Their blood flows with the glories of historical memories. The spirit of perseverence prevails despite the past tribulations of wars and the dreadful Genocide which marks the soul of every Armenian. In our young people, the past lives. In our young people, the spirit of Armenia forever soars.

How Armenian are most of our youth? The recent demonstrations for the reunification of Karabagh with the motherland rekindled a new national awareness of the Armenian heritage. Hundreds of young people joined in the historic march in March from Diocesan Headquarters in New York City to the Soviet Mission to the United Nations. For the first time, the Karabagh issue made many of them truly aware and proud of their Armenian background.

The 22 young people who participated in the ACYOA Studies Program actively joined in the Karabagh demonstrations in Yerevan. They were warmly welcomed as fellow Armenians by the proud and dauntless people of Armenia. They were not Americans nor Soviet citizens. They were all Armenians, united in a just cause: the liberation of their brothers and sisters from Azerbaijani oppression.

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The potentials to attract others to the ACYOA's banner are certainly viable. And you are the key to bringing them to fruition in our Church youth activities -- in the new program opportunities that have been created and which will be expanded as time goes on. You are the role models. You are those special people charged with bringing more of your fellow Armenians into the ACYOA and the Church community. In you rests the potentiality as well as the growth of the Armenian faith and cultural identity in America. It is an awesome responsibility. But it has its rewards, spiritually, socially and culturally. It is in greater unity and cohesiveness that we will find our full collective strength, as dedicated Armenian Christians and as patriotic Americans.

May the Lord continue to guide you in your service and fellowship. And may He bestow upon us all His blessings during these next few days of programs and deliberations.

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ARCHBISHOP MANOOGIAN SPORTS BANQUET REMARKS Let me begin by congratulating all of the young people and their families who have participated in this Sports Weekend. It is you who have made it such an outstanding success. And special thanks are due to the members of the host chapter for their dedication, hard work and warm hospitality.

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On occasions like this it is also customary to congratulate the winners.

In sports, as in life, winning is important. Very important.

Those of you who finished first have a right to be proud of yourselves ... and we are proud of you, too.

But you don't have to be a gold medalist to be a winner.

Everyone wins who puts his or her best effort -- heart and soul -- into a venture.

Everyone wins who learns from the experience and emerges the wiser for it.

And, most of all, everyone wins who comes away from an event like this with new friends, renewed enthusiasm and a strengthened sense of our shared Armenian heritage and identity.

Each and every one of you who played a part in this Sports Weekend is a winner. I salute you all.

The same pursuit of excellence, the same spirit of

achievement and teamwork that characterized this event, has also characterized other church and youth activities over the year.

Nineteen-eighty-seven has been a time of promise and achievement for our young people and for the ACYOA. A plan has been worked out that will foster religious, cultural and educational programs throughout the Diocese. And, just as important, funds have been raised to put the plan into action ... to make it a reality.

Our young people's growing interest in the Armeninan heritage is heartening. This past summer, for example, a group of Assembly members toured nearly fifty monasteries in Armenia.

They spent a month of "total immersion" -- physically, intellectually and emotionally -- in the Armenian way of life. They drank deep from the wellspring of our people's ancient but living faith and traditions. The impressions they received -- the lessons they learned -- will last them a lifetime. They will make them better Armenian Americans, better Christians, and better people.

The April 24th commemoration of our martyrs was another highlight of the year, observed by Assembly chapters across the country.

These and other developments bode well for the future of our church -- and the ancient civilization and high

ideals it represents -- in America.

We see before us a younger generation of enormous promise. Determined, decided and disciplined, they have set themselves high goals -- scholastically, professionally and personally. It is our prayerful hope and firm belief that these qualities will not only help them to excell in the outside world, but will also strengthen them as loyal sons and daughters of the Armenian Church. For, make no mistake, it is the Church, above all else, that houses our faith and our culture.

It enshrines and renews our soul as a people.

So, again, congratulations to all of you who have participated in this Sports Weekend. First to last, each and every one of you who gave of your best is a winner ... a true champion.

In the final months of 1987, and in the year ahead, I urge each of you to bring the same energy and dedication -the same commitment and quest for excellence -- to all of our community activities.

Keep on reaching for the best, guided by the example of Christ and inspired by the glorious history and living testimony of the Armenian people.

Like the Olympic torch that symbolizes the most ancient traditions of sportsmanship, the torch you carry is an important one. It is the torch of our Armenian heritage and

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our Christian faith. It is the torch which you, too, will pass in time to yet another generation of young Armenians.

Carry it proudly. Tend it carefully. It is a sacred trust, at once your right, your privilege and your duty.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

REMARKS BY HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP TORKOM MANOOGIAN, PRIMATE OF THE DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA, NATIONAL ACYOA GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND NATIONAL SPORTS WEEKEND BANQUET, PROVIDENCE, R.I., SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 4, 1988

Ladies and gentlemen, members of the clergy, distinguished guests...

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During this past week, we have been elated and gratified by the many young people who have participated in this ACYOA Sports Weekend here in Providence. Their enthusiasm and dedication are heartwarming.

Very importantly, as we look out at this sea of wonderful Armenian faces, we see those of parents and grandparents who have come to give their love and support to their young people. Collectively, the young and the mature, you have all made this year's program a truly outstanding success. The events of the past week stimulate memories of Navasart in ancient Armenia, and the sports games there that made them the Olympics of their time.

Special congratulations are also due to the members of the ACYOA host chapter for their hard work and generous hospitality. They exemplify the true Armenian spirit that makes us all so proud of our youth and their accomplishments.

At the General Assembly on Thursday, we discussed some of the major accomplishments of the ACYOA last year and -- most importantly -- the objectives for the future. Among these were the new opportunities the organization has established in many areas to create a more viable atmosphere for our cadre of ACYOA leaders to draw other young Armenian Americans into the Church community and related sports, cultural, and leadership building activities.

The ACYOA is a vibrant and growing organization. It is important that we all support it to the fullest.

Recent fundraising efforts and the generosity of many benefactors have opened up new avenues of program expansion. Last year, for instance, In 1988-89, we have six. there were only two major programs. These programs range from religious-oriented ones, to sports weekends such as this one. They include informative programs on Armenian history, art, language and culture. There are also sessions on developing leadership and management skills. Taken in total, they give our Armenian youth the opportunity to inter-face on current issues, to meet their peers, exchange ideas, and reach out to fellow Armenians with the message of kinship. There are other activities as well. The ACYOA's Executive Secretary, Douglas Tashjian, is busy organizing new ACYOA Chapters, in Dallas and Houston, Texas; in Boca Raton, Florida; in Trumbull, Connecticut and Queens, New York City.

Over the years, and this one is no exception, we have spoken of the growing alienation in America that affects so many of our young people, and how this makes the challenges all that much greater in reaching them and bringing them into the Armenian family. Yet, it is my conviction that the potentials to do this are apparent. Most of our young people are aware of and proud of their origins. Of that we are certain. The recent demonstrations over the reunification of Nagorno-Karabagh with Armenia demons-Thousands of our youth joined in the demonstratrated this admirably. There were many hundreds in tions with their parents and grandparents. the historic march earlier this year from Diocesan Headquarters to the Soviet Mission to the United Nations. They were all united in one purpose: to help free Karabagh from Azerbaijani oppression and have the region reunified with the Armenian motherland. There is no doubt that Karabagh, perhaps for the first time, made a great many of our young people more fully aware of their unique Armenian background.

This sense of Armenianism carries over into other areas as well. The need for our youth to rally to the Armenian banner should be obvious to all. The ACYOA leaders are the role models. It is they who are charged with bringing more and more of our young people into the Church community. In them, the future is secured. It is an awesome responsibility. But it has its rewards. It is in greater unity and cohesiveness that we Armenians will find our full, collective strength -- both as dedicated Armenian Christians and as loyal, patriotic Americans. We must not forget that in our young people, the spirit of Armenia lives. It is in them that this spirit will soar, reaching ever-greater heights in progress and achievement.

Certainly someone who has never forgotten her Armenian roots is the choice for the 1988 ACYOA National Alumni 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.

Through the years, a number of prominent ACYOA Alumni have been selected for this Award, representing various fields of endeavor. Each was -- and is -- a source of pride for the Armenian community.

This year's selection is no less distinguished. Julia Tashjian -- the Secretary of State of Connecticut -- is a remarkable woman, and a remarkable Armenian-American.

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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.

Prior to her election as Secretary of State, Julia served on numerous political committees, including the Democratic State Central Committee. She represented Connecticut as a delegate to the 1980 Democratic National Convention and the party conference in 1981. She is involved in current Democratic Party affairs, and her advice and counsel are held in high esteem by her peers and compatriots. She is the President-elect of the National Association of Secretaries of State.

Julia has an active personal life. She and her husband, James, have four lovely children, two boys and two girls, and one grandchild. She is also active in Armenian Church and community affairs.

Julia exhibits the qualities which fully characterize our ACYOA members and Armenian community leaders. 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.

It is a pleasure for us, therefore, to present this year's ACYOA National Alumni Award to the distinguished Secretary of State of Connecticut, the Honorable Julia Tashjian.

MRS. TASHJIAN ACCEPTS AWARD -- MAKES ACCEPTANCE REMARKS



Opening Proyer Service Annual ACYOA General Assembly

OFFICIANT:	Orhnyal Der Mer Hisoos Krisdos, Amen.	Blessed by our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.
EVERYONE :	Hayr mer, vor hergins yes, Soorp yeghitzi anoon ko; yegestzeh arkayootyoon ko; yeghitzin gamk ko, vorbes hergins yev hergri; uzhatz mer hanabazort, door mez aysor. Togh mez uzbardis mer, vorbes yev mek toghoomk merotz bardabanatz. Yev mee danir uzmez ee portzootyoon, ayl purgya ee chareh.	Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
OFFICIANT:	Zi ko eh arkayootyoon yev zorootyoon yev park havidyans. Amen.	For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory unto the ages. Amen.
EVERYONE:	Soorp Asdvadz, soorp yev huzor, soorp yev anmah, vor khachetzar vasn mer, voghormya mez. (repeat three times)	Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, who was crucified for us, have mercy on us. {repeat three times}
DEACON:	Yev yevus khaghaghootyan uzDer aghachestzook.	And again in peace let us beseech the Lord.
EVERYONE:	Der, voghormya.	Lord, have mercy.
DEACON:	Vasun khaghaghootyan amenayn ashkharheeyev hasdadootyan srpo Yegeghetzvo, uzDer aghachestzook.	For the peace of the whole world and for the stability of the holy Church, let us beseech the Lord.
EVERYONE:	Der, voghormya.	Lord, have mercy.
DEACON:	Vasun amenayn soorp yev ooghghapar yebisgobosatz, uzDer aghachestzook.	For all holy and orthodox bishops. let us beseech the Lord.
EVERYONE:	Der, voghormya.	Lord, have mercy.
DEACON:	Vasun Hayrabedin mero, Diarun, Diarun Vazkeni Srbaznakooyn Gatoghigosi genatz, yev prgootyan hokvo norin, uzDer aghachestzook.	For the life of our Patriarch, Lord, Lord Vazken the First, and for the salvation of his soul, let us beseech the Lord.
EVERYONE:	Der, voghormya.	Lord, have mercy.

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DEACON:	Vasun hokvotsun hankootzeiotz vork jushmarid yev ooghigh havadov ee Krisdos nunjetzin, uzDer aghachetzook	For the souls of them that are at rest and have fallen asleep in Christ, in the true and right faith, let us beseech the Lord.
EVERYONE:	Hishya Der, yev voghormya.	Remember Lord, and have mercy.
DEACON:	Voghormyatz mez, Der Asdvadz mer, usd medzi voghormootyan koom, asastzook amenekyan miapanootyamp	Have mercy upon us, O Lord our God, according to Thy great mercy, let us all say with one accord
EVERYCHE:	Der, voghormya; Der, voghormya; Der, voghormya.	Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.
DEACON:	Alleluia, Alleluia, those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but abides for ages. As there are mountains around Jerusalem, so the Lord is around His people, from this time forth and forevermore.	
DEACON:	Alleluia, orthi.	Alleluia, stand.
OFFICIANT:	Khaghaghootiun amenetzoon.	Peace unto all.
EVERYONE:	Yev unt hokvooyt koom.	And with your spirit.
DEACON:	Yergiughadzootyamp luvarook.	Let us be attentive.
READER:	Surpo Avedaranis, Hisoosi Krisdosi, vorus	To the Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ, according to
	(Wed.) Hoogas 15: 1-10 (Thurs.) Hoogas 17: 1-10 (Fri.) Mateosi 16:13-20	(Wed.) Luke 15: 1-10 (Thurs.) Luke 17: 1-10 (Frí.) Matthew 16: 13-20
EVERYONE :	Park kez Der Asdvadz mer.	Glory be to God.
D EACON :	Broskhoomeh.	Listen attentively.
EVERYONE:	Aseh Asdvadz	God speaks.
READER:	(Gospel reading)	(Gospel reading)
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officiant:	Eemasdootyoon Hor Hisoos, door eendz eemasdootyoon, uzparees khorhel yev khosel arachee ko hamenayn jham, ee char khorhurtotz, ee paneetz yev ee kordzotz purgya zees; yev voghormya ko araradzotz yev eendz pasmameghees.	Jesus, Wisdom of the Father, give us wisdom to always think and speak and do what is good in Your sight; save us from evil thoughts, words and deeds; and have mercy on all Your creatures, and upon us, as manifold sinners.
	Park Hor yev Vortvo yev Hokvooyn surpo; Ayjum yev mishd yev havee- dians, haveedeneetz. AMEN.	Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; Now and always and unto the ages of ages. AMEN.
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Opening Proyer Service Annual ACYOA General Assembly

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VERYONE:	Park kez Der Asdvadz mer.	Glory be to God.
FFICIANT:	Eemasdootyoon Hor Hisoos, door eendz eemasdootyoon, uzparees khorhel yev khosel arachee ko hamenayn jham, ee char khorhurtotz, ee paneetz yev ee kordzotz purgya zees; yev voghormya ko araradzotz yev eendz pasmameghees.	Jesus, Wisdom of the Father, give us wisdom to always think and speak and do what is good in Your sight; save us from evil thoughts, words and deeds; and have mercy on all Your creatures, and upon us, as manifold sinners.
	Park Hor yev Vortvo yev Hokvooyn surpo; Ayjum yev mishd yev havee- dians, haveedeneetz. AMEN.	Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; Now and always and unto the ages of ages.