

# ARMENIAN DANCE INSTRUCTION AND FELLOWSHIP SOCIAL

Hosted by the Department of Youth Ministry

Twenty members from the St. Leon ACYOA Juniors attended an Armenian Dance Instruction Class and Fellowship held on June 26, 1993 at Saint Leon Armenian Church in Abajian Hall. The dance instruction class was led by the Director of the Armenian Folk Dance Society, Mr. Arsen Anoushian. Mr. Anoushian taught the participants traditional Armenian Village Dances, such as; the seppo barr, tamsarra and pompuree to name a few.

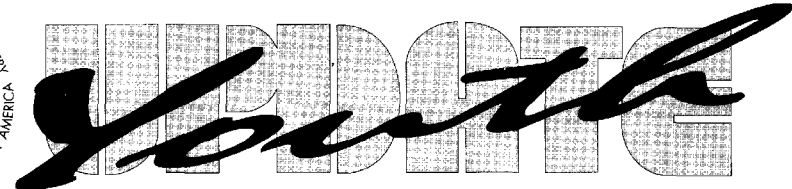
The event was hosted by the Youth Division of the DYM. The Diocesan Department of Youth Ministry is happy to see that this type of event is of interest to today's youth and was a success. If any ACYOA Junior group is interested in hosting such an event, please contact the Department of Youth Ministry (212) 686 - 0710.

# ST. JAMES FORMS YOUTH GROUP IN RICHMOND, VA

The Diocesan Youth Coordinator, Mr. Stephen P. Megrđichian visited the newly formed youth group of the St. James parish in Richmond, Virginia on June 27, 1993. Twelve new members were present at the meeting following Church services. The youth group listened attentively to Stephen Megrđichian and the Reverend Father Tavit Boyajian, the Guest Celebrant, about many activities available for the youth, along with serving the Church.

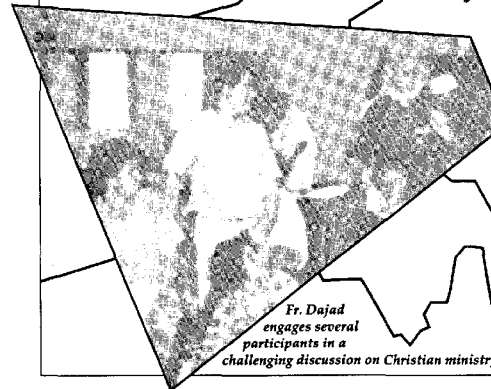
The group assessed their needs and scheduled their first activity together as a group. On August 14th, the group will be going to a local river for white water rafting or some kind of water sports. The group will be chaperoned by the reorganized ACYOA Senior group led by Miss Arpi Bouroudjian.

The Diocesan Department of Youth Ministry is proud to see that the youth of the St. James parish have come together and organized a Junior Youth group. The group is planning on scheduling fellowship activities as well as a membership drive.



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## 24th ANNUAL ACYOA JUNIORS SPORTS WEEKEND WATERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS



Fr. Dajad engages several participants in a challenging discussion on Christian ministry.

Over 125 ACYOA Juniors from all over New England, New York/New Jersey, and Philadelphia attended the 24TH ANNUAL ACYOA JUNIORS HYE M'RTSOOM SPORTS WEEKEND sponsored by the Watertown ACYOA Juniors held on Memorial Day Weekend, May 28-31, 1993.

His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian presided over Friday evening's Vesper services and also addressed the youth about the importance of maintaining their Armenian heritage and how the Church needs the youth to participate in parish life. The Reverend Father Dajad Davidian, pastor of St. James Armenian

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### Watertown Hye M'rtsoom Winners of 1993

**Educational Competition**

- 1st Holy Martyrs, Bayside
- 2nd St. James, Watertown
- 3rd Armenian Church of Our Savior, Worcester

**Boys Basketball**

- 1st St. James, Watertown
- 2nd Holy Martyrs, Bayside

**Girls Basketball**

- 1st Holy Trinity, Cheltenham
- 2nd St. James, Watertown

**Co-Ed Volleyball**

- 1st St. James, Watertown
- 2nd Holy Martyrs, Bayside

**Beginner's Chess**

- 1st Taline Lorensian, St. James, Watertown
- 2nd Melissa Kouyumjian, Armenian Church of Our Savior, Worcester

**Advanced Chess**

- 1st Peter Lorensian, St. James, Watertown
- 2nd Jeff Assarian, St. James, Watertown

**Beginner's Tavloo**

- 1st Vahe Tateosian, Holy Martyrs, Bayside
- 2nd Suzy Ohannessian, St. James, Watertown

**Advanced Tavloo**

- 1st Harout Ohannessian, St. James, Watertown
- 2nd Nick Terkanian, Holy Trinity, Cheltenham

**Beginner's Ping-Pong**

- 1st Chris Sarajian, St. James, Watertown
- 2nd Nick Terkanian, Holy Trinity, Cheltenham

**Advanced Ping-Pong**

- 1st Johnny Baronian, St. James, Watertown
- 2nd Michael Kassabian, St. James, Watertown

### SOMEWHERE TO TURN

by Deacon Greg Doudoukjian

At around 3:30 pm Hagop arrives home from school, goes upstairs into his room and pulls out his Bruce Springsteen CD, Born in the USA. He begins by listening to the song, "Cover Me."

*"The times are tough now. Just getting tougher. This old world is rough It's just getting rougher, Cover me. Come on Baby, cover me. Well I'm looking for a lover who will come on in and cover me..."*

*Outside's the rain, the driving snow I can hear the wild wind blowing. Turn out the light. Bolt the door. I ain't going out there no more. This whole world is out there just trying to score. I've seen enough I don't want to see any more. Cover me. Come on and cover me."*

This issue of Youth Update features an article by Deacon Gregory Doudoukjian, a recent graduate of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary in New Rochelle, New York. Greg will be furthering his studies this fall in Jerusalem. Greg is originally from St. Thomas Armenian Church in Tenafly, New Jersey.

"This is really about me," said Hagop. He continued to think, "It's Murphy's Law 'Everything that can go wrong, will.' These times are so tough for me. I am a 16-year-old with a world full of problems. Why can't I be like a normal teenager. Life is supposed to be care free. Instead, things at home aren't so hot. Mom and Dad are always arguing and fighting; and I seem to take the brunt of their festering anger. My grades are plummeting from B's to C's—which will hurt me when I apply to college real soon. Oh man, thoughts about college is another pressure in itself! On top of all this, I just learned that a real close friend of mine tried to kill himself. Heavy stuff man, heavy stuff. I thought I was suppose to be enjoying this part of my life. I'm scared beep-less. Why do I have to deal with these things? GOD, Why Me? Maybe if I blink real hard my problems will disappear. Or better yet maybe a magic genie will appear and grant me three wishes."

Hagop closes his eyes tightly and clinches his fists hoping for that magic genie. "The genie's not working," he said knowing that was a ridiculous thought in the first place. But after some deep thought Hagop studiously thinks, "Maybe God will work? Have I prayed lately or even listened to God lately? What am I to do?"

In a separate world, in the land of technology and incredible sound, he puts the stereo headphones on nice and tight, and as

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While visiting each conference group at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate, fielded questions and addressed the concerns of the young participants who are dealing with the pressures and challenges of growing up in the '90s.

## DIOCESE SPONSORS SUMMER CONFERENCES FOR YOUTH

The Diocesan Department of Youth Ministry hosted its annual St. Vartan Summer Conferences at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary in New Rochelle, New York from July 26th through August 8th, 1993. The programs were attended by Junior High and High School age youth. The conferences were directed by the DYM director, the Reverend Father Mardiros Chevian, assisted by the Youth Coordinator, Stephen P. Megrđichian.

Young students came together to learn, worship, have fellowship and fun. The youth were provided with personal guidance and direction, planned field trips, as well as sports and recreational activities for a well-rounded Armenian religious and cultural experience. The goal of this conference was to expand the participant's knowledge of the faith and history of the Armenian Church, as well as the cultural heritage of our people, while exploring the application of these to their lives.

The format of the conference included daily worship, bible-study and lectures by clergy and lay educators. The lecturers spoke on a variety of religious and cultural issues, such as; "Contemporary Issues in the Armenian Church" by the Reverend Father Mardiros Chevian, "The Life of Christ" and the "Introduction to the New Testament" by the Very Reverend Father Vahan Hovhannessian, "The Sacrament of Baptism and Chrismation" by the Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian, "Church Doctrine" by the Very Reverend Father Haigazoun Melkonian and "Modern Armenian Church History" by Mrs. Elise Antreassian-Bayizian. Also, each group was visited by His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate for dinner and discussion. The youth had many concerns and questions revolving around the Church and its issues.

The forty-six young people who participated in these conferences left with a better understanding of the orthodox faith and traditions of the Armenian Church, while also gaining a greater

appreciation for their Armenian culture. The conferences provided a mixture of worship, fellowship, education, witness, and a better understanding of how youth are able to serve through the love of Christ. □

## Hye M'rtsoom

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Church hosted the weekend.

This weekend was planned by the Watertown ACYOA Juniors' Executive Committee and its chairperson, Miss Laura Iskenderian, along with Mrs. Marcia Sedhom, the host parish's youth director. The weekend featured fierce sports competition, Christian fellowship and an educational program led by Ms. Karen Deryan and Mr. Stephen P. Megrđichian.

The Diocesan Department of Youth Ministry was pleased to see that this weekend was a huge success. The Watertown ACYOA Juniors' Hye M'rtsoom Weekends have joined Armenians together for twenty-four years and continue to be a major ingredient of Christian love and fellowship. □



Bay-side ACYOA Jr's win the Educational Competition. Congratulations to Taline Garabedian and Rich Manuelian.

## Somewhere to turn

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Springsteen continues to blast, Hagop ponders to himself.

What am I feeling? Let me first recognize each feeling. They deserve recognition. They are entitled to be who they are. Okay, first of all, I feel angry—I am angry at God for allowing all these things to happen to me; I'm angry at my parents for the way they treat me. I feel sad—I am sad because my good friend tried to kill himself; I had no clue. I feel alone—I feel like I am going through this all alone; no one understands me. I feel abandoned—no one cares about me and my feelings; my parents are too busy engulfed in their own problems. I feel frightened—I am scared; the world is really a tough place, I feel like I have no security blanket. I feel stressed—I am so tired of all of this; I am tired of thinking and worrying; I am physically a wreck; I haven't worked out in a month and my body senses that. I feel used—I can't stand when my parents yell and scream at me or take their frustrations out on me; it's not fair. I feel frustrated—I feel like I can't do anything about these things; anyway, who will listen to a "kid?" Everyone says we [kids] don't know what we're talking about when we use the word "problem." My teachers are on my case because my grades are slipping; damn it! I want to do well so I can get into the college of my choice. I feel confused—I think God is there listening to my prayers but its real hard to believe it; after all, how do I know He is answering my prayers?; blind faith is really hard. I feel like I'm going crazy—I have too much going on in my brain; my systems are shutting down; I'm blowing a few fuses. Well, I think that's enough for now.

Scratching his head with a perplexed look on his face, Hagop wonders. "Now that I know the difference between the feelings I have and the ones I don't—What's next? I suppose naming and claiming my feelings are a good thing, I need to admit that I am a human being, no matter how old I am, and realize that these feelings are real and belong to me."

"I also have to remember that when things get real out of control—I should take things one day at a time and if that's too much—take things one hour at a time. Also I have to remember the word EGBOK which stand for 'Everything's Gonna Be O-Kay.' These problems I am facing today will pass. I'll find a way to deal with them.

"I guess finding someone to talk to about my feelings would also help. But who can I talk to? I need to talk to someone who will take me seriously and truly listen to me. They may not have answers for me, but that's okay." Hagop begins to think of potential people he can talk with. "First of all, I can talk to Chris, she is a real good buddy from school. What about Henry from church? He's another option. Then there is Mr. Jackson from school. He's real cool. How about Mom and Dad? Well, they're a possibility, as well as part of the problem. Der Hayr's a cool dude. I guess I can talk to him. And yeah, I know I can talk to God. I know he has an 800 phone number."

But Hagop again let's out a sigh and thinks, "I'm tired of praying and not getting any response. I pray and wait and wait—

nothing, I suppose God is waiting for me to take some action as well. I remember some deacon telling me on a retreat that, 'prayer is not a one way street.'

All of a sudden a lull in the music and just before Springsteen can scream "Born in the USA," Hagop's mother screams, "telephone."

"Thank you," Hagop shouts back, as he picks up the phone. "Hello, Hi Henry..., How are you? I was just thinking about you." [Conversation continues...]. "Hey Henry, let me ask you something, you know I am really bumming out and I was thinking of calling Der Hayr to talk with him. What do you think? You think its okay, huh. Okay, thanks, maybe I call him. Let me go...take it easy...bye" [click].

212-686-0710 [ring...ring] "Yes, can I have the Department of Youth Ministry please." [call is transferred]

"Hello, Der Hayr, how are you?... its Hagop. "You got a minute..." "Where do I begin? Let me start by saying..." †

Questions for YOU to ponder:

- What is it like being in Hagop's shoes?
- How can you relate to Hagop?
- What are the problems in your life?
- Where does God fit into your picture?
- What is your prayer life like?
- How does God answer your prayers?
- Who are the people in your life you can turn to?

## THE SERENITY PRAYER

*Don't forget when things get rough  
remember this prayer:*

*God grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I can not change—  
the courage to change the things I can—  
and the wisdom to know the difference.*

## CALENDAR 1993

October-November

- October 8-11 1993 ACYOA Juniors Fall Sports Weekend  
Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Cheltenham,  
PA. (Call Ms. Carol Jerrahian for details,  
215-878-2245)
- October 24 Discovery of the Holy Cross
- November 21 Presentation of the Holy Mother-of-God to  
the Temple.
- November 28 First Sunday of Advent