



COMMEMORATION

1915 ~ 1985

TO COMMEMORATE THE 70th ANNIVERSARY OF THE
VICTIMS OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE OF 1915,
EACH ACYOA CHAPTER SHALL SPONSOR AND PARTICIPATE
IN THE NATIONAL ACYOA COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM ON
"ACYOA DAY"
IN THE DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA
PALM SUNDAY - MARCH 31st, 1985.



.....SECOND EDITION.....1986



THE FOLLOWING OUTLINE IS PROVIDED FOR ALL PARISHES AND ACYOA CHAPTERS TO ALLOW A UNIFIED AND STANDARD PROGRAM FOR THE ACYOA IN THE DIOCESE.

THE PROGRAM CONSISTS OF FOUR PARTS:

PART 1. YOUNG ADULT PARTICIPATION IN DIVINE LITURGY.

Participation of ACYOA members in Divine Liturgy on "ACYOA Day" Palm Sunday. Serving at the Altar, singing in the Choir, passing the "kiss of Peace", etc. are some of the roles the young people shall take on this day.

PART 2. THREE PLANTING AND DEDICATION.

The ACYOA shall donate to the Parish a living tree or flowering shrub. This shall be planted and dedicated in memory of the Armenians who perished in 1915. A small plaque shall be placed at the tree.

PART 3. COMMEMORATIVE LUNCHEON.

As is the custom on ACYOA Day, a luncheon or banquet shall be offered to the Parish, with the 70th Anniversary Commemoration as the theme. The young people themselves shall make up the program, through which their thoughts and feelings concerning the Armenian Genocide will be related.

PART 4. DONATION OF BOOKS ABOUT ARMENIANS.

A minimum of \$100.00 from the proceeds of the Luncheon shall be used to purchase books about Armenians (history, religion, arts, etc.). These books shall be donated to local public libraries. A presentation shall be made by the ACYOA to the Library at an appropriate time.

NOTE: THE FOLLOWING PAGES PROVIDE A DETAILED STEP-BY-STEP PROCEDURE FOR EACH PART OF THIS ACYOA PROGRAM. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT THE ACYOA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OR MEMBERS OF THE ACYOA CENTRAL COUNCIL.

PART 1.

ACYOA Commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the Victims of the Armenian Genocide of 1915 - Diocese of the Armenian Church 1985.

PROCEDURE FOR ACYOA PARTICIPATION IN THE DIVINE LITURGY ON "ACYOA DAY" - PALM SUNDAY.

PURPOSE:

To provide an opportunity for the young people of the Parish to fully participate in the celebration of Divine Liturgy on "ACYOA Day" - Palm Sunday. This will also demonstrate the seriousness of the young people on this day, and lend to the over-all theme of the young adults of the Parish continuing the Armenian faith and heritage that was disturbed by the tragic events of 1915.

STEP ONE:

Meet with the Pastor and review the many roles and duties involved with the Divine Liturgy. A list of young adult participants should be made up. This list should not include those young people who usually serve the Altar or sing in the Choir. Those young people who infrequently attend Divine Liturgy should be most encouraged to participate, assisted by those who usually attend.

STEP TWO:

Along with the Pastor, assign the various duties of the day, confirming the participation of each with a telephone call. If necessary, arrange a rehearsal in the Church so that each participant will know what that are expected to do that day.

Some of the duties and roles include:

- a) Servers at the Altar
- b) Readers of the Mid-Day Lections
- c) Singers and solists in the Choir
- d) Passing the "kiss of peace"
- e) Passing the offering plates
- f) Distributing the "mas"
- g) Distributing the palms
- h) Distributing the Sunday Bullitins
- i) Receiving donations for votive candles
- j) Assistance to Parish Council

There are enough roles and duties involved with the Divine Liturgy for each ACYOA Member to participate.

STEP THREE:

Donations. Make arrangements with the Pastor to donate palms and/or flowers for this day. The palms will be blessed and distributed to the faithful. The flowers are always welcome to adorn the altars.

STEP FOUR:

Print Bullitin. Whether or not your Parish normally prints and distributes a Sunday Bullitin for the faithful, a special Bullitin should be prepared for this day. In it, the special ACYOA Program of the day should be explained, with each part given separate attention. Of course the faithful should be invited to attend each event following Divine Liturgy. ACYOA Members should distribute this Bullitin to each person as they enter the Church foyer, prior to entering Church.

STEP FIVE:

"Liturgy Limo Service". In addition to the above mentioned participation, an additional step may be considered if the resources and manpower are available.

Provide transportation to those people of the Parish who do not have any means to come to the Church.

This can be accomplished by first meeting with the Pastor or Parish Council and determining those with such a need. Next, telephone each person and explain that the young people of the Parish are providing transportation to attend Divine Liturgy and the Program of the Day. Depending on the need, a bus or mini-van may need to be rented, or, simply arrange personal cars.

CONCLUSION:

Although participation in Church Services should not be a special event, the participation of many young adults in the Divine Liturgy on this day should present a special atmosphere in the Parish. The physical presence of young people, along with their sincere participation in the Church Service is a positive sign and uplifting feeling for the adults and older adults of the Parish. Moreover, it is a positive indication that the faith and heritage of the Armenian Church is for everyone - young and old alike. It also demonstrates that the various commemorative events begin first with Worship Services, and that the young people share in the heritage of such Worship as did those whose memory is commemorated on this day.

PART 2.

ACYOA Commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the Victims of the Armenian Genocide of 1915 - Diocese of the Armenian Church 1985.

PROCEDURE FOR COMMEMORATIVE TREE PLANTING.

PURPOSE:

To dedicate a physical living memorial to those who perished in the Armenian Genocide of 1915. The tree will be a living symbol that Armenians the world over, and in particular the Armenians in this Parish community, are continuing with the spirit and determination of their ancestors. With the roots firmly planted, the tree, like the Armenian young people, will grow to become strong and full of life.

STEP ONE:

Meet with the Pastor and Parish Council and explain the idea and purpose of this part of the over-all ACYOA Commemorative Program. Receive their permission and a location for the tree.

- NOTE: 1. The idea behind this planting is to dedicate a living memorial to the Armenian Martyrs. If a tree is inappropriate for the Parish grounds, perhaps a flowering bush (rose, etc.) would better fit in the landscape.
2. For those Parishes without appropriate grounds for any type planting, it is possible to make such a donation/memorial on public grounds in the town or city of the Parish. In this case, the officials of the town or city government would have to be approached for the proper procedure.

STEP TWO:

Purchase or have donated the tree. Many landscaping companies and others in this business can be approached. It is suggested that a flowering tree (cherry, apple, dogwood, etc) be planted. In this way, its flowers each spring will serve as a beautiful reminder of the dedication, and a symbol of continued growth as a community.

STEP THREE:

Dedication Service. Review or create a Dedication Service with the Pastor. It should be short and meaningful. Young people should participate in appropriate roles.

STEP FOUR:

The day before the dedication (Saturday before ACYOA Day - Palm Sunday) the location and tree should be prepared. Usually, the tree is placed and actually planted the day before such "planting ceremonies". During the actual Dedication Service, a few shovels of earth are thrown at the base of the tree symbolizing the actual planting. This avoids problems of digging, watering, fertilizing, etc., during the Service.

OVER

STEP FIVE:

Dedication Plaque. An appropriate small plaque should be placed on or near the tree stating very simply: "Dedicated to the Memory of the Armenian Martyrs - 1915-1985". This should be placed before or during the Dedication Service.

STEP SIX:

Actual Dedication Service. This should take place immediately following Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning. A procession with the celebrant of the Divine Liturgy should move from the Church to the appropriate location on the Church grounds. The faithful as well should follow the procession of Altar Serves and Choir Members. The Dedication Service is accomplished.

CONCLUSION:

This part of the over-all ACYOA Commemorative Program is especially significant. In it, the young people are making a statement, as well dedicating a living memorial. The statement is alive, growing, (perhaps flowering) and illustrating the alive and growing young Armenians of the Parish community. The participation of the young people, indeed their designing and planning and implementing of such Armenian Martyrs Commemorations, is indicative of the continued growth of the Armenian faith and heritage.

PART 3.

ACYOA Commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the Victims of the Armenian Genocide of 1915 - Diocese of the Armenian Church 1985.

PROCEDURE FOR COMMEMORATIVE BANQUET OR LUNCHEON.

PURPOSE:

Many ACYOA Chapters sponsor banquets or luncheons on "ACYOA Day" each year. Since the Diocese has proclaimed 1985 as a Commemorative Year for the Armenians who perished in 1915 - marking the 70th Anniversary, it is only appropriate that the customary ACYOA Day Banquet use this theme. The gathering of the Parish to share time and a meal together presents a communication vehicle through which the young adults of the Parish might convey their feelings and thoughts regarding the events of 1915. While there may be other Commemorative activities and events in the Parish in April, this particular Program sponsored by the ACYOA presents an entirely different perspective, and allows the young people themselves to fully express themselves and share with the adults of their community their feelings and thoughts about the Armenian Genocide.

STEP ONE:

Plan as usual the ACYOA Day - Palm Sunday luncheon or banquet - as is the custom for the Parish. If the Parish does not have this custom, this might be a fine time to begin one.

- NOTE: 1. Setting up such an annual event requires meeting with the Pastor and Parish Council and explaining the Program and its intent. For this to be successful, the cooperation and assistance from the Pastor and Parish Council is essential, as well as from other Parish Organizations.
2. A special Committee should be assigned just for this part of the Commemorative Program. Organizing an elaborate banquet or simple luncheon requires time and effort.

STEP TWO:

A Committee should be appointed to handle all the arrangements for the dinner and program. Special meetings of this Committee should take place to ensure all details are covered.

STEP THREE:

The Program. This should consist of young adults relating their thoughts and feelings concerning the 70th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Other related formats may of course be utilized. During the Program, the over-all ACYOA Commemorative Program for this year should be explained to the people. It should be mentioned that all ACYOA Chapters throughout the Diocese are participating; that the

youngpeople of the Parish participated in the Liturgy; that the tree planting symbolizes the continued living growth of the Armenian community - despite the tragic events of 1915; that some of the proceeds from the dinner will be used to purchase books on Armenians and be donated to local public libraries so that information on the Armenians will be more readily available to the public; etc., etc.

STEP FOUR:

Photographs. If the Parish does not have a regular person who takes photos of Parish events, someone should be asked to do so. It is important that such photographs are taken and sent with news releases describing the day's events.

In addition, representatives from the various media sources of the community should be invited (newspapers, radio, television). In this way, the public will be exposed to other forms of Armenian activity and commemorations than what is usually in the news.

STEP FIVE:

An announcement should be made to the audience regarding the date and time the books on Armenians will be donated to the library. The public should be invited, with some type of small reception planned as well.

STEP SIX:

Invitations. These should be sent to various officials of the Parish. For example: Diocesan Delegates, Parish Council Chairman, Organization's Chairmen, local Officials of Government, Director or Librarian of library(s) to receive books, etc. Of course the Pastor is always invited. These people should receive complementary tickets, as well as be introduced to the audience.

CONCLUSION:

Such community meals have been a custom of the Armenians since our birth as a nation. This particular day's theme is particularly significant, especially since it is the young people themselves who are sponsoring, planning, organizing and implementing the over-all program. This is an indication to the Armenian and non-Armenian community that the Armenians are alive, vibrant, and willing to continue that which was partially destroyed at the turn of the century. A meal is a meal; but it is what surrounds the meal that is significant.

PART 4.

ACYOA Commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the Victims of the Armenian Genocide of 1915 - Diocese of the Armenian Church 1985.

PROCEDURE FOR PURCHASE AND DONATION OF BOOKS ON ARMENIANS.

PURPOSE:

To provide materials and resources to local public libraries of the Armenian community. These materials are donated with the intent to share the Armenian story with the general public, and thereby inform the public about the Armenians.

STEP ONE:

Meet with the Head Librarian of the library(s) which are most popular in the local Armenian community. College and University libraries may also be included.

Explain the intent - that the ACYOA Chapter of the Parish is commemorating the memory of the Armenian Martyrs of 1915 with a special program this year, marking the 70th Anniversary. Part of this Program is the donation of books to public libraries.

If the Head Librarian is cooperative and wishes to accept such a donation, give a list of the books to be donated. It would also be in order to invite such officials to the luncheon/banquet on ACYOA DAY.

STEP TWO:

Purchase books. Decide on how much will be spent on the books. Remember that at least \$100.00 is to be spent, however, the more books that are available on Armenian subjects, the more effective this program will be. The following is a list of suggested books, which provide a quality balance for any library reference:

| | cost | code |
|---|-----------|------|
| 1. The Armenians, A People in Exile - D.M. Lang | 28.00 | 109 |
| 2. Ambassador Morgenthau's Story - H. Morgenthau | 10.00 pb. | 110 |
| 3. Armenia, Past and Present - E. Bauer | 32.00 | 122 |
| 4. Armenia on the Road to Independence - R. Hovannisian | 28.00 | 126 |
| 5. Treatment of the Armenians Under the Ottoman Empire - Bryce | 25.00 | 135 |
| 6. Armenian Art Treasures of Jerusalem | 39.00 | 203 |
| 7. Armenian Architecture Series (choose 1 thru 11) average price is | 11.50 ea. | 214 |
| | pb. | |
| | 173.50 | |

NOTE: All the above mentioned books, plus many others are available thru the St. Vartan Bookstore of the Diocese of the Armenian Church. We encourage purchases through the St. Vartan Bookstore. Codes provided at right are for use and reference at the St. Vartan Bookstore.

Check library card-files to see what books on Armenians they may already have on Armenians and Armenian subjects.

STEP THREE:

Publicity. One of the important parts of the overall Program is for the community at large to know what you're doing. Articles should be written and sent to all local newspapers, radio and television stations informing them of the events, and inviting them to cover the activities (complimentary tickets should always accompany such invitations). Have someone take photographs of the important people attending.

STEP FOUR:

Presentation of Books. Before the end of April, a date should be secured with the local library(s) that will receive the books. Members of the ACYOA and Parish community should make the presentation at the library, with a planned reception of some type following. Photographs of the presentation with the Head Librarian should be taken and used with news releases. Again the Press and local media should be invited.

CONCLUSION:

These Four Steps are a very simple and easy way for the ACYOA Chapters of the Diocese to participate together in a very appropriate Martyr's Commemoration that is aimed at the local community where the Parish is located. In this way, the local general public will have a better idea of who the Armenians are, and what types of activities involve the members of the ACYOA and Armenian Church.

If every ACYOA Chapter across the Diocese can participate in this year's 70th Anniversary Martyr's Commemoration, a unified voice will be heard by the Armenian community at large - that the ACYOA realizes the importance of the Armenian Genocide of 1915, and that together the young Armenians of America are determined to continue the Armenian heritage through faith in God and cultural awareness.