REVEREND FATHER GARABED KOCHAKIAN



Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian is presently the Pastor of Saint Mesrob Armenian Church in Racine, Wisconsin and was assigned by the Primate, His Eminence Torkom Archbishop Manoogian in August of 1982. Father Garabed prior to assuming his new assignment served at the Armenian Church of Our Saviour in Worcester, Massachusetts from 1974-1982, first as Deacon-In-Charge (1974-75) then as Assistant Pastor and Pastor (1976-82).

Father Garabed, born in Salem, Massachusetts studied at the Vesper George School of Art and the Boston Museum School of Fine Arts for three years after which he received his undergraduate education from Iona College in New Rochelle, New York with a B.A. degree in Classical Languages. While attending Iona, he was enrolled (St. Nersess Seminarian) at Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary in Crestwood, New York.

As part of his seminary training, Father Garabed spent the summer of 1970 at the Monastery of Holy Etchmiadzin in Sovet Armenia, studying the Armenian language and church history. Upon his return from Armenia, he was then matriculated as a Master of Divinity candidate from St. Vladimir's. While pursing his graduate degree in Eastern Orthodox Theology, he worked extensively with the Council for Religious Education of the Diocese, conducting teacher training workshops and writing materials for Church School Christian Education and he presently serves on the Advisory Committee to the Department of Religious Education's Curriculum development project.

In 1973 upon presentation of his thesis "Religious Art in Armenian Theology" ne graduated with a Masters of Divinity from St. Vladimirs. In 1973-74 he attended the Melkonian Educational Institute of Nicosia, Cyprus to complete his course of study in Armenological subjects. From Cyprus, Father Garabed completed

studies at the Armenian Orthodox Patriarchate of St. James in Jerusalem, prior to his return to the United States.

Among his many Diocesan activities aside from parish responsibilities he has served on the central council of the Choir Association of the Diocese, instructed young people at the Saint Nersess Summer Study Conferences and the Helen and Edward Mardigian Institute for Church School teachers. He was also appointed by the Primate as Co-ordinator of the Training Program for Altar Servers. During his years in Worcester, MA. Father Garabed was involved in the Ecumenical movement and was a founding member of the Oriental and Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic Dialogue. On behalf of the Primate he participated in a world gathering of Theologians and professors at Assumption College in Worcester, MA. during the summer of 1980. Father Garabed has recently authored a series of "Tracts" of the hymns of the Divine Liturgy published by the Choir Association and is currently preparing educational material for our Diocesan Sunday Church Schools.

Aside from these varied activities Father Garabed still finds time to devote to his painting. He paints and copies Armenian Illuminated Manuscripts, at times delivering lectures in manuscript painting and demonstrating this ancient art. Recently, he painted a five-foot panel depicting Saint Gregory of Datev. This icon, was consecrated by the Primate and installed in a newly built altar at Saint Gregory's the Illuminator Armenian Church of Haverhill, Massachusetts.

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the general theological seminary • 175 ninth avenue • new york, new york 10011

March 16, 1982

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate Diocese of the Armenian Church of America 630 Second Avenue New York, NY 10016

Dear Archbishop Manoogian:

I am enclosing a transcript of the academic work achieved at The General Theological Seminary by Onnig Terzian along with our regular evaluation. This evaluation has been discussed by a Faculty committee and approved by the Faculty.

Faithfully,

James C. Fenhagen

Dean

JCF/kt