



*Sixtieth Anniversary*  
*Holy Cross Church of Armenia*

*New York City*

**ՎԱԹՍՈՒՆԱՄԵԱԿ**  
**ՍԲ. ԽԱՉ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԵԱՅՑ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻՈՅ**

**ՆԻՒ ԵՈՐՔ**

1989





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1989





The Holy Cross Church has reached a milestone with 60 years of existence. My forty five years at Holy Cross has been a rewarding experience.

I have deep feelings and affection for our parishioners and friends who were affiliated with Holy Cross, resulting in a close relationship with one another and making us feel like a family.

In the course of time, many parishioners relocated to different areas. However, they always found time to attend our church and its functions.

The parish, through the years had the foresight to create a sinking fund in order to balance our financial needs.

We are looking forward to our 70th Anniversary and will strive to improve a stronger path for our new generation to come.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who participated and helped in making this 60th Anniversary of the Holy Cross Church a success.

Sam Chapootian

*The Front Cover is Sponsored by*  
**THE KACHAJIAN FAMILY**  
*In Loving Memory of*  
*Simon and Lousaper*  
*Ovagim, Makrouhi and Shamiram*



His Holiness, Vasken I,  
Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos  
of All Armenians



His Holiness at Holy Cross





**ԱՌԱՋՆՈՐԴՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ ՀԱՅՈՑ**

DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA, 630 SECOND AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016-4885 212 686-0710

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

**PRIMATE'S MESSAGE**

The anniversary of an Armenian Church is always an occasion of joy and celebration. This year it has even greater significance. Almost a year ago an earthquake in Armenia took tens of thousands of lives and maimed many more physically and psychologically; in less than a year we will be marking the 75th year since the Genocide of 1915 in which the Armenian homeland was devastated and two million perished.

And yet today the Armenian nation is affirmed in the 60th anniversary of the Holy Cross Church of Armenia in New York City. We glory in the faith of this ancient Church that has withstood unimaginable onslaughts from natural disaster to man's inhumanity to man.

The history of Holy Cross Church is the history of each and every one of its members, past and present. Its life embraces the lives of its pastors, their families, the countless liturgies celebrated, the feast days, the hard work of teaching, learning, praying, fund raising, cooking, cleaning. The Holy Cross parish has had thousands of members and it has hundreds. But no matter the members enduring, it is the inspiring story of Armenian Christians serving God and people in one community of love and faith.

We salute that community today, its accomplishments, all its loving servants. God bless you and may the next 60 years be as full of life and as rich in faith.

Prayerfully,  
*Abg. Torkom Manoogian*  
Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Primate

August, 1989



Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Primate,  
Diocese of the Armenian Church



**ԱՌԱՋՆՈՐԴՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ ՀԱՅՈՑ**

DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA, 630 SECOND AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016-4885 212 686-0710

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

**ՆԻՒ ԵՈՐԹ ԲԱՂԱՔԻ Ս. ԽԱԶ ՀԱՅՑ. ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻՈՑ  
ՀԻՄՆԱԿՐՈՒԹԵԱՆ 80-ԱՄԵԱԿԻՆ ԱՌԹԻՒ**

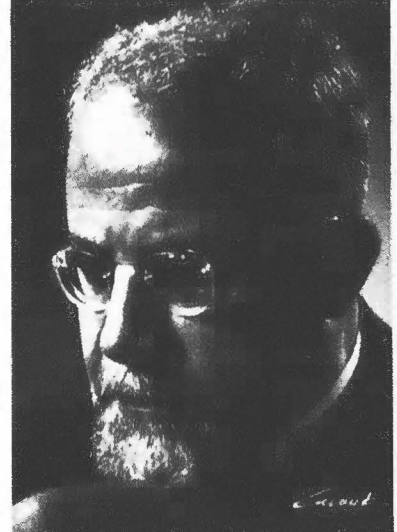
Հոգեկամ մեծ գոհունակութեամբ կը հաստատենք որ անցնող վեց տասնամեակներու ընթացքին՝ Նիւ Եորք քաղաքի Ս. Խաչ Հայց. Եկեղեցին եղաւ գլխաւոր հաստատութիւնը՝ որ հոգւետր, կրթական եւ ընկերային կարիքները հոգաց շրջանի հայ հաւատացեալներուն: Առաւել՝ Ս. Խաչ Եկեղեցին եղաւ այն «դպրոցը», ուր անեցաւ ու կազմաւորուեցաւ հայ գիտակից երիտասարդներու խումբ մը, որ հետագային մեր թեմի զանազան ծոխերուն մէջ ստանձնեց եկեղեցիներու մէջ սպասարկողի եւ համայնքային ղեկավարի պաշտօններ: Ս. Խաչ Եկեղեցին եղաւ նաեւ այն ոխտակայրը՝ ուր կ'այցելեմ եղերաբախտ Ղեւոնդ Արք. Գոռեանի յիշատակը յարգողները:

Միշտ է որ այժմ ժամանակներն ու պայմանները փոխուած են, սակայն Ս. Խաչ Եկեղեցին տակաւին կանգուն է շնորհիւ խումբ մը նուիրեալ եւ հաւատաւոր ազգայիններու, եւ կը շարունակէ իր սրբազան պարտականութիւնը:

Որպէս Առաջնորդ Հայց. Եկեղեցւոյ Հիւսիսային Ամերիկայի Արեւելեան Թեմին, կը շնորհաւորեմք Ս. Խաչ Եկեղեցւոյ հիմնադրութեան 80-ամեակը եւ կ'օրհնենքք Շխական Խորհուրդի անդամներն ու համայնքի բոլոր հաւատացեալները: Կ'աղօթենք որ Տէրը միշտ թաց պահէ Աղօթքի այս Տան դռները:

Սիրոյ Ողջունի  
*Մ. Գ. Բեկարեան*  
ԹՈՐԳՈՍ ԱՐԲԵՂՈՒՍԿՈՒՄ  
Առաջնորդ

Հոկտեմբեր 1989  
Նիւ Եորք, Ն.Ե.



A dedication

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Holy Cross Church of Armenia we dedicate this book to the memory of Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan, who for over two decades brought spiritual nourishment to the members of our community.

For our 40th anniversary booklet he wrote, "Whatever we are is due to what our predecessors have been. The Lord has blessed us on our path. He will give us courage and the vision to go forward with confidence..."

And on the occasion of our 50th anniversary, he reminded us that "the church has served its sacred purpose... the people who have been nurtured in the Holy Cross Church through the years give us hope."

The Armenian Church lost her greatest prince on September 18, 1989. Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan, theologian, scholar and pastor was laid to his eternal rest, during Divine Liturgy at St. Vartan Cathedral. He died as he lived, with grace and dignity, with an intrepid faith, lucid and witty to the end.

For 22 years Archbishop Tiran lived in our parish house. Many church leaders, clergy and intellectuals came to visit him and to receive his advice and blessings.

We were honored to have him in our midst. On the occasion of his 70th birthday, and the 50th and 60th anniversaries of his ordination to the priesthood the parish feted him with organized banquets.

His Grace loved Washington Heights and the ethnic mix of its inhabitants. We often ran into him on the

streets and in the shops of St. Nicholas Avenue. He amazed us with his eagerness to walk everywhere. And somewhere through all those years he briskly went up three flights of stairs to his apartment.

Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan was in great demand as a preacher and public speaker. For many years he preached the sermon every week at Holy Cross Church. He had given numerous talks and presented papers to public and scholarly audiences both in America and abroad. Among his published works are: The translation and commentary of the **Divine Liturgy of the Armenian Church** (revised fifth edition, London, England (1984); **The Book of Hours** (1964)); and **The Order of Baptism** (1964).

Archbishop Tiran was a spiritual parent and guide to many of our clergy and lay leaders in this country. His guidance, direction and leadership were essential to the growth and development of the Armenian Church in America in the past 45 years. He was a visionary, and will be sorely missed.

On our 60th anniversary we acknowledge that Archbishop Tiran helped make us what we are today, and he certainly never abandoned hope in the people of Holy Cross. He always kept his eyes focused on Our Lord Jesus Christ. We should do no less.

May Our Lord receive His servant Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan in His Heavenly Kingdom, and send his comforting Holy Spirit to his family, and all of those who mourn the passing of this giant of the Armenian Church.

*In Memory Of Our Beloved Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan*  
DADOUR AND SARA DADOURIAN



## ARCHBISHOP TIRAN NERSOYAN



Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan



*In Memory of Our Beloved Daughter, Marguerite  
MR. & MRS. SAM CHAPOOTIAN AND SON*

Archbishop Tiran was born Nersess Tavookjian in Ainteb, Cilicia on August 23, 1904, one of six children of Fr. Nersess and Yeretzgin Annitza Tavookjian. He attended preparatory school in Ainteb and was deported with his family to Syria in 1915. After a long period of hardship, which included Fr. Tavookjian's exile into the desert and the death of his baby daughter, the family returned to Ainteb after the Armistice of 1918.

With Archbishop Elisha Tourian of Constantinople, elected Patriarch of Jerusalem in 1921, 17-year-old Nersess Tavookjian left his birthplace before the withdrawal of the French military forces and entered the Seminary of the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem. The young seminarian's father had been a pupil of the great educator, Tourian, at the Seminary of Armash near Constantinople.

Nersess Tavookjian was ordained a deacon in 1926 after having graduated from Seminary in 1924. He taught at the Armenian Elementary School run by the Patriarchate and did editorial work on Archbishop Ormanian's *Azgapatoon*, whose third volume was posthumously being published under the direction of Bishop Papken Gulesarian, dean of the Jerusalem Seminary.

Nersess Tavookjian was ordained a celibate priest on July 22, 1928 by Patriarch Elisha Tourian, who named him Tiran Nersoyan. During the following ten years, Fr. Tiran Nersoyan spent two years of theological study at schools in England. After receiving his degree of Vardapet upon his return to Jerusalem, he served the Brotherhood of St. James as editor of the monthly magazine *Sion* and as teacher and Dean of the Seminary. During this period, he was sent on a pastoral mission to the Armenians of Sudan in 1932 and to Marseille, France in 1934 to obtain for the Patriarchate documents relative to the Armenian Question which were in the custody of Bishop Gregoris Balakian. During 1932-1936, Fr. Tiran served as Chairman of the General Assembly of the Brotherhood of St. James and for two consecutive terms he also served until 1938 as an elected member of the Brotherhood's Synod.

In August, 1938 Fr. Tiran left Jerusalem to take up the post of Vicar in Paris to assist the ailing Archbishop Vramshabouh Kibarian. In December, 1939, he accepted the position of Pastor of the Armenian Community in London where he served during most of World War II, acting also as Chaplain of Armenian men and women serving in the Allied Armies. During these years, Fr. Tiran attended various gatherings of the Anglican Church and contributed to many publications acquainting non-Armenians with the history and theology of the Armenian Church.

On October 3, 1943 the Diocesan Assembly of the Eastern Diocese of America elected Fr. Tiran Nersoyan as Primate to succeed Archbishop Karekin Hovsepian, who conferred upon him the degree of "Dzayrakoyin Vardapet" in November 1944 shortly after Fr. Tiran's arrival in New York. Heading the delegation from North America in May 1945, Fr. Tiran Nersoyan went to Holy Etchmiadzin and took part in the election of His Holiness Catholicos Georg VI, who consecrated him a Bishop.

During the ten years when Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan served as Primate of the Eastern Diocese, he brought more life to the Diocese in the following areas:

1. Recruitment and ordination of educated candidates to the priesthood. With the help of Alex and Marie Manoogian and other benefactors, scholarships were provided for young students and newly-ordained clergy from the Middle East to pursue graduate studies in the United States and to serve in vacant parishes.

2. Campaign for the Cathedral and Cultural Center. The land for the present Diocesan center complex was purchased under Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan's leadership.

3. Revision of Diocesan by-laws. In this task, Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan was actively involved. Two revisions were completed, in 1946 and 1950.

4. Founding of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America in 1946. The ACYOA became the area where future lay leaders of several parishes and clergy were trained and nurtured. For more than 20 years, the ACYOA saw the publication of its own magazine, *The Armenian Guardian*.

5. The founding of the Association of Armenian Church Choirs of America in 1947. This body sponsored annual seminars and publications, propagating much-needed knowledge about our cultural, historical, spiritual and liturgical heritage.

6. Negotiations for the reunification of the Armenian Church in the Eastern Diocese. Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan was involved in the two-year negotiations (1945-1947) with the mandate given to him by His Holiness Catholicos Georg VI.

7. The number of clergy serving in the Diocese was increased by 21. Eleven church buildings were purchased or built along with 13 halls, nine houses and nine plots of land.

Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan's election as Locum Tenens of the Jerusalem Patriarchate took place in 1956 and as Patriarch in March, 1957. His tenure came to an abrupt end in August, 1958 due to his sudden deportation from Jerusalem by the Jordanian authorities. In 1960, Archbishop Tiran returned to the U.S. Since that time he has been engaged in the establishment and growth of the St. Nersess Seminary, on whose Board he is 2nd Vice President and has served as Dean and Faculty member.

His Ecumenical interests have taken him to Rhodes, Greece in August 1959 as an invited observer at the Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches; to Aarhus, Denmark in August, 1964 as participant in the unofficial consultations between theologians of Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox churches; and to Vienna, Austria in the mid-1970's as a participant in the ongoing consultations between theologians of the Oriental Orthodox Churches and the Roman Catholic Church organized by the Ecumenical Foundation, "Pro Oriente."

Since 1954, Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan has visited Holy Etchmiadzin and the Armenian Patriarchate of Istanbul on several occasions. He has performed the ordination of priests in both jurisdictions, bringing the total number of priests ordained by him since 1948 to 20. His recent visits to Holy Etchmiadzin were in connection with his participation in the work of a study commission appointed by His Holiness Vasken I, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, relative to the constitution and canons of the Armenian Church.

Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan has given numerous talks and presented papers to public and scholarly audiences both in America and abroad. Among his published works are: The translation and commentary of the *Divine Liturgy of the Armenian Church* (revised fifth edition, London, England (1984); *The Canon and the Rite of Holy Matrimony* (1953); *Order of the Dedication of a Church* (1953); *The Book of Hours* (1964); and *The Order of Baptism* (1964).

Archbishop Tiran was a founding member of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research.

THIS BIOGRAPHY OF ARCHBISHOP TIRAN NERSOYAN WAS PREPARED BY REV. FR. ARTEN ASHJIAN IN JULY 1988

*To All The Dedicated Members of the Holy Cross Church  
MR. & MRS. SETRAG M. ARDOUNY*





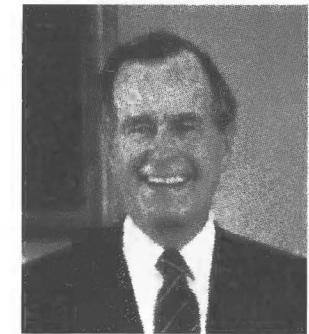
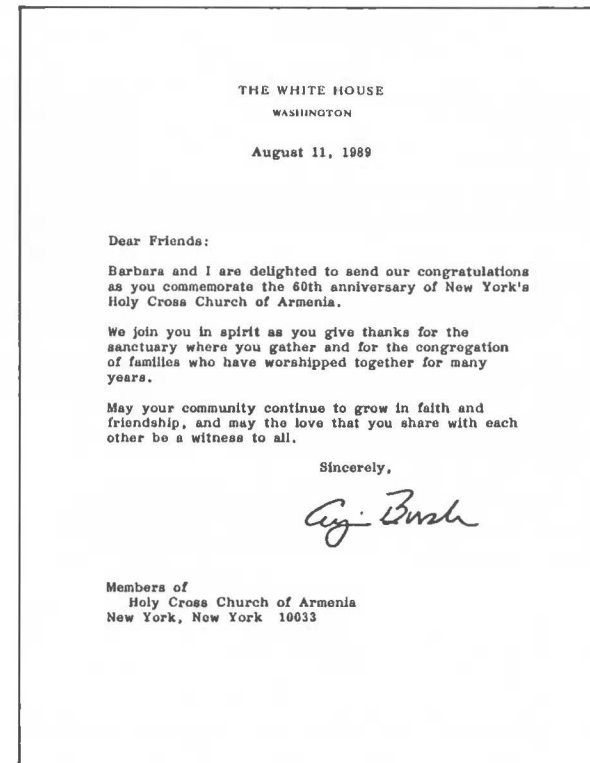
It has been a rewarding experience for me to be the chairman of the Parish Council in this decade. With the consent and the cooperation of the members of the Parish Council, the Zvartnotz Choir was founded and the shrine dedicated to Charkhapan Soorp Asdvadzadzin was established in our Church.

We were saddened with the resting in Christ of our pastor, Rev. Fr. Vartan Megherian, in 1984; our visiting pastor, Rev. Fr. Guregh Kalfayan in 1988; and recently our beloved mentor, scholar and former Primate of the Diocese Archbishop Tiran Ner-soyan. Archbishop Tiran was the bishop in-residence in our church since 1967 and we considered him the head of the Holy Cross family.

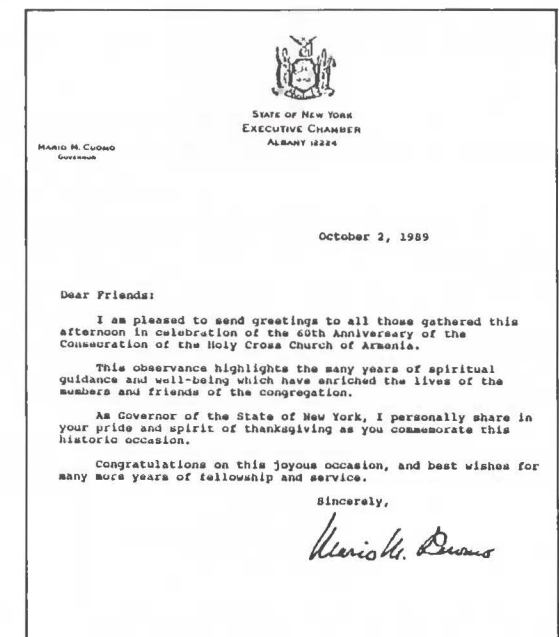
On behalf of the Parish Council, I congratulate the Holy Cross Church on it's 60th anniversary, wishing that she will continue her mission of the salvation of souls for the glory of God.

Hagop Uryan  
Chairman,  
Parish Council

*In Memory of Sarkis Deckmejian  
(Parish Council 1929-33; 1936-38)*  
ZAROUHI, BIRJ & DIRAN DECKMEJIAN



George Bush  
President of  
The United States



Mario Cuomo  
Governor  
State of New York

*In Memory Of Parents: Dr. Pauline Goodian & Dr. Yervant Harrian;  
Grandparents: Mariam & Boghos Goodian;  
and Uncles Hagop and Imshah Goodian*  
MARY DIANE HARRIAN





The Honorable  
Edward Koch,  
Mayor of New York

THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
New York, N.Y. 10007

April 29, 1989

Holy Cross Church of Armenia  
580 West 187th Street  
New York, New York

To All In Attendance:

New Yorkers of every faith and belief join me today as I proudly extend greetings to the faithful of Holy Cross Church of Armenia gathered here to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of your church.

Armenians are special to me, because your community believed in this city at a time when others did not. When they fled, you stayed -- stabilizing your neighborhoods, helping stabilize this entire city. And you have long since made believers of us all -- believers in your spiritual uniqueness, and in our common humanity.

Holy Cross was founded not long after the worst genocide in history up to that point had resulted in the death or diaspora of more than half the Armenians then living in the world. For six decades, Holy Cross has been there to help this city's Armenian community stand together, and reach out to your many friends in other communities who share your values and will forever admire your culture, your courage and your spirit.

Now, in a time of new adversity caused by last December's terrible earthquake, the mission of Holy Cross is more important than ever -- and the bonds between Armenian New Yorkers and their neighbors are stronger than ever.

With all best wishes,

Sincerely,

Edward I. Koch  
Mayor

Daniel Patrick Moynihan  
United States Senator



Alfonse D'Amato  
United States Senator

DANIEL P. MOYNIHAN  
NEW YORK

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 20, 1989

Dear Friends:

Great Congratulations to the Holy Cross Church of Armenia! I offer my warmest and most sincere regards on this most splendid occasion of your 60th Anniversary. Through your good efforts the strength, vitality, and vibrancy of the Holy Cross church as well as the entire community is ensured.

Enjoy a wonderful luncheon, and do accept my best wishes for the future.

Sincerely,

Daniel Patrick Moynihan

Sincerely,

Alfonse D'Amato  
United States Senator

David Dinkins,  
Manhattan  
Borough President



Robert Abrams  
New York State  
Attorney General



DAVID H. DINKINS  
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

August 8, 1989

Holy Cross Church of Armenia  
580 West 187th Street  
New York, N.Y. 10033

Dear Friends:

It is with great pleasure that I extend my greetings on the occasion of the Sixtieth Anniversary of the New York Holy Cross Church of Armenia.

As you gather together to celebrate this milestone in your history, you can indeed be proud of the role that Holy Cross Church has played in fulfilling the spiritual and religious needs of its congregation.

I wish the hierarchs, clergy, parishioners and guests of Holy Cross Church many years of health and happiness.

Sincerely,

David N. Dinkins

DND/NSB/pa

ROBERT ABRAMS  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

October 29, 1989

To the Holy Cross Church of Armenia:

On your 60th Anniversary, I salute your illustrious past, your significant present and your promising future. I wish you many, many more years of devotion and service.

As one of the oldest and largest Armenian Churches of our State, you have been and remain the foundation for a dynamic, valuable community. The support you provide to the preservation of the Armenian language is a most important contribution to the vitality of our multi-ethnic society. The recent development of the pilgrimage to your church extends your role as a center of belief and solidifies your position as an anchor in the neighborhood.

With all who celebrate this grand event, I join in acclaiming the six decades of the Holy Cross Church of Armenia. Long may you prosper.

Sincerely,

ROBERT ABRAMS



Stanley Michels  
City Council of N.Y.  
6th District, Manhattan

September 25, 1989

Holy Cross Church of Armenia  
580 W. 187th St.  
New York City 10033

Dear Friends:

Happy 60th Anniversary!

I appreciate being granted this opportunity to acknowledge the years of community service provided by the Holy Cross Church and its long and productive history in the Washington Heights community.

The Holy Cross Church was founded at a time when many Armenian families had settled in this area, including many survivors of the terrible Armenian Genocide of 1915. The church has proven to be a springboard for Armenians throughout the United States and Canada. You should be proud that people from all over still believe they have their "religious roots" here.

The church should also be proud of its steadfast work in aiding the victims of the devastating earthquake in Armenia last year.

Needless to say, the role the church has played throughout the years has been invaluable. I can only encourage you to keep up the good work and thank you for maintaining your dedication to this community.

Sincerely,

Stanley E. Michels

Congratulations On Your 60th Anniversary  
EDWARD, LEON JAMIE AND FAMILIES

SARKISS MISSAK JIGARJIAN





Charles B. Rangel  
Member of Congress,  
U.S. House of  
Representatives

Dear friends of the Holy Cross Church of Armenia,  
I want to congratulate you and wish you all the best as you celebrate your 60th anniversary.

You have been a vital part of our family community for a long time and your support, hard work, and dedication to those around you, should be commended.

I wish you continued success, health, and happiness always. May God bless each and everyone of you.

*Charles B. Rangel*  
CHARLES B. RANGEL  
Member of Congress



Ted Weiss  
Member of Congress,  
U.S. House of  
Representatives

July 26, 1989

Ms. Roxy Gardner  
105 Arden Street  
New York, NY 10040

Dear Ms. Gardner:

Thank you for your letter inviting me to participate in the Holy Cross Church of Armenia's 60th Anniversary celebration to be held on Sunday, October 29.

I send my best wishes to the parishioners of the Holy Cross Church of Armenia and congratulate you on sixty years of outstanding service to your community. You serve as a beacon to Armenian people throughout the New York area, and indeed around the country. Your depth of caring and shared spirit serve as an example to us all.

Sincerely,

*Ted*  
TED WEISS  
Member of Congress



1966 - Archbishop  
TORKOM  
MANOOGIAN



1958-1966 Archbishop  
SION  
MANOOGIAN



1954-1958 Archbishop  
MAMPRE  
CALFAYAN



1944-1954 Archbishop  
TIRAN  
NERSOYAN



1939-1944 Archbishop  
GAREGIN  
HOVSEPIAN



1931-1933 Archbishop  
LEON  
TOURIAN



1921-1928 Archbishop  
TIRAYRE DER  
HOVHANNESIAN

*In Loving Memory of My Beloved Husband Jibrael K. Haroutunian;  
Son, Richard Paul Haroutunian;  
and Parents, Paul and Mary Vartanian*  
MRS. ROSE J. HAROUTUNIAN AND DAUGHTER JOYCE

*Congratulations on Your 60th Anniversary  
With Many More Years of Prosperity*  
SUREN AND VIRGINIA FESJIAN



*Pastors and Assistant Pastors 1929-1989*



REV. FR. HAROUTUNE SARKISIAN  
1929-1932



BISHOP HOVSEP GARABEDIAN  
1932-1933



VERY REV. ELISHA H. SIMONIAN  
1935-1965



REV. FR. MAMIGON VOSGANIAN  
1966-1971



VERY REV. ARSHEN AIVAZIAN  
1972-1974



REV. FR. VARTAN MEGHERIAN  
1976-1984



REV. FR. GUREGH KALFAYAN  
1984-1988



REV. FATHER  
ARTEN  
ASHJIAN



VERY REV.  
YEGHISHE  
GIZIRIAN



REV. FATHER  
HAIK  
DONIKIAN



VERY REV.  
OSHIN  
NICOLIAN



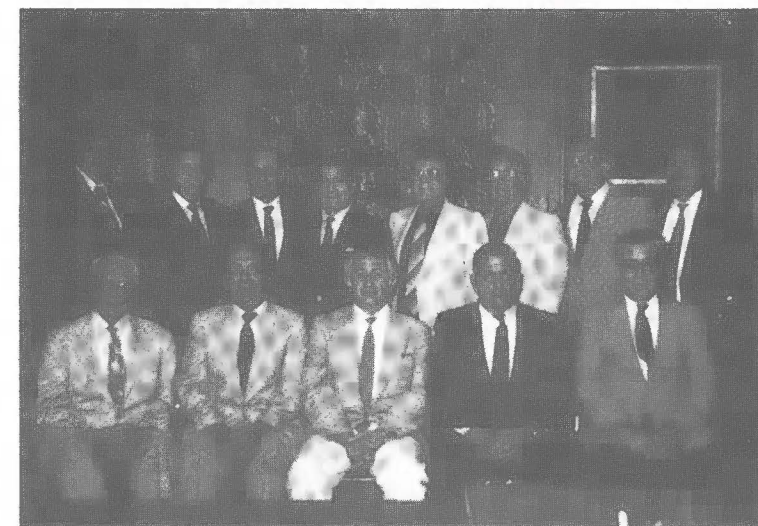
VERY REV.  
HMAYAG  
INTOYAN



REV. FR. DIRAN  
PAPAZIAN

*In Loving Memory of My Sister Mari Barbarian  
and Husband Nubar Kassimian  
ZARTAR KASSIMIAN*

*The Parish Councils*



PARISH COUNCIL

Man or woman with a tough hide, with an even temper, knowledge of bookkeeping essential. Maintenance and Engineering knowledge is a must. We need individuals who can devote many hours and days away from home for causes above and beyond the normal course of duty. If such a person exists, kindly contact the Holy Cross Church for a position on the parish council.

An ad such as the above should scare away most everyone. Surprisingly year after year, 11 men and women apply for the job and serve a two year stint. From the doctor who introduces you to life to the

mortician who closes the last chapter of your life, and every professional and tradesman in between, parish council members come from all walks of life.

These individuals take on this herculean task because they are the sons and daughters of Vartan. People who are proud in the traditions of the Armenian nations. They come and serve to the best of their abilities. Very quietly they step aside and let others carry on the noble task.

Listed on the following pages are many of the men and women who have served as council members since 1929.

MR. & MRS. HAIG SEFERIAN and SONS



## Parish Council Members 1929-1989

* Karekin Kalendarian	1929	Kevork Magarian	1935/36/37	Onnig Kaishian	1948/49/51
Dr. S. Ayvazian	1929	Yeznik Tufenkjian	1935/36		/52
Nishan Maghakian	1929/30/31	Zareh Kapikian	1935/36	Haig Jevahirjian	1948/49
	/36/37	Artaky Damadian	1935/36/37	Jibrael Haroutunian	1948/49
David Atamian	1929/40	Megerditch Kalousdian	1936	Harry Hajinlian	1948/49
Vosgan Harutunian	1929/30	Yervant Mavian	1937	* Edward Bashian	1949/50/51
Sarkis H. Demirjian	1929/31/32	Souren Mekenian	1937/49/50		/52
	/35		/51/52	* David Davidian	1950/53/73/74
Harutiu Arootian	1929/30	Edward Jaboolian	1937/43/44		80/81
Harry Khanpashian	1929/30/31		/45/46/47	Dr. Zareh Bedoukian	1950/51
	/33/34		/48	Jirayr Minassian	1950/51/52
* Hovanes Donelian	1929/30/37	* Harry Tatosian	1938/39/40		/53/54/55
Thadius Zarookian	1930		/41/42/43		/56
Dr. Garabed Yeghiayan	1930		/44/45/46	Vahe Arakellian	1950/51/52
Mesrob Abajian	1930/41/42		/47/48/49		/53/54/55
	/43/44		/50		/56/57
Michael Zakian	1930	Krikor Haroutiunian	1938/39/40	* John Tembeck	1951/52/53
* Hovan Garabedian	1931	* Levon Arslanian	1938/39/40		/54
Garabed Zatmajian	1931/32		/41/42/43	Steven Merjanian	1952/53/54
Megerditch Topalian	1931/32		/44/45/46		/55/57
Sarkis Dokemjian	1931/32/33	George Fehmian	1938/39	* John Devejian	1952/53/54
	/38	Meguerditch Kapikian	1938/39/40		/55/56
Dikran Chakmakian	1931		/41	Rupen Saddler	1953
* Kevork Danielian	1931/34/38	Vahram Keabajian	1939/40	Eli Bogosian	1953/54/55
	/39/45/46	Hovanes Garabedian	1939/40/42		/56/85/87
	/47	* Aram Jaboolian	1939/40/41	Edward Shahbazian	1953/54/55
			/42/43/44		/56/57/58
* Garabed Boyajian	1932		/45/46/47	Ralph Anoushian	1953/54/55
Vartan Azkhanian	1932/33		/68/69		/56/57
Dickran Tufankjian	1932/33	John Chalikian	1940	* Harry Hintlian	1953/54/55
Gamsar Sarafian	1932	Ashod Tutuian	1941/42/43		/56/57/58
Asadour Yerganian	1932		/44/45/46	* Dr. Zaven Daderian	1954/55/56
* Ardavazt Kouyoumjian	1933		/47/50		/57/58/59
Aram Mendikian	1933	Dr. Goulaz Goulazian	1942/43/46	Jack Karagosian	1954/55/57
Vahram Derderian	1933		/47		/58
Aramayis Pakrodouny	1933/34/37	Hovsep Kuchukian	1941	Zohrab Demirdjian	1955/56
Vahram Manoogian	1933/34/41	Parsegh Allahverdian	1941/42/43	Samuel Melkon	1956/57
* Ardashes Hampar	1934		/44/45/46	Peter Kalemkerian	1956/57/58
Krikor H. Kalousdian	1934/35/36		/47/48		/59
Anahid Tufankjian	1934	Zareh Terzian	1942/43	Kegham Bogosian	1957/58/59
Harutiu Gosdanian	1934/35	John Kouyoumjian	1943/44		/60/61/62
Anna Abajian	1934	John Vakassian	1943	* George Sanossian	1958/59/60
Harutiu Harutiunian	1934	John Kuyumdjian	1944/45/46		/61
* Dr. Yervant Harrian	1935/36	Samuel Proodian	1944/45/46	Jack Hajinlian	1958/59/60
Sumpad Vartabedian	1934/35/36		/47/48/49		/61
	/37/40/41		/50/51	Leo Hagopian	1958/59/60
	/42/43/44		/48		/61
	/45/47/48	* George Bashian	1945/46/47	Arthur Bostanjan	1958
	/49/50/51		/48		
	/52/63/64	Puzant Balaian	1947/48/49	Vrage Boyajian	1959/60/61
	/65/66		/50/51/52		/62

In Memory Of Aghavni, Harry,  
Alice Arpine Tatosian and  
Elizabeth (Tatosian) Yardum  
ARA L. YARDUM

In Memory Of Parents:  
Angel & Hagop Basmajian  
and Kahraman & Tamar Haroutunian  
MR. & MRS. RICHARD HAROUTUNIAN

Kirk Sayian	1959/60/61	George Davidian	1964/65/66	Harry Gandjian	1970
Caspar Kasparian	1959/60		/67/71/72	Albert Barsamian	1970/71/79
* Walter Kaprielian	1959/60/61	Tony Mikaelian	1964/65/66	Philip Oughourlian	1970/71
	/62		/67/68/69	Jack Hachikian	1972/73/74
* Sam Chapootian	1960/61/62		/71/72/73	Edward Essayan	1972/73
	/63/64/65		/75/76/77	Norayr Bedrossian	1973/74/75
	/66/67/74		/78		/76/78/79
	/75/76/77	Sarkis Dadourian	1965	Zevart Bogosian	1973/74/77
	/78/79/82	Vaughn Chambers	1966/67		/78
James Haroutunian	1960/67		1979/85	Anne Kondrajian	1973/74/75
	1975/82	John Ardouny	1966/67/68		/76
	1984/89		/69/70/71	Leo Manuelian	1974/79/81/83
Houssig Tashjian	1961/62/63		/72	Dikran Kantar	1974/77/81/82
	/64/65	Zaven Demirdjian	1966/67/68	* Hagop Uryan	1974/79/81/89
Thomas Kulakjian	1962/63		/69/70/73	Aram Gozubuyukian	1975/82
Menas H. Daderian	1962/63/64		/74	Norair Uryan	1976/77/83/89
	/65/66/67	Charles Moscato	1967/68	Yervant Kantar	1977/89
	/72/73	Mirijan Kirian	1967	Charles Garabedian	1977/89
George Guendjoian	1962/63/71	* Joseph Kalemkerian	1968/69/71	Nurhan Helvacian	1978/82
	/72		/72	Robert Zarookian	1979/85/89
* Shah Arslan	1963/64/65	George Mekenian	1968/69	Hmayak Hovnanian	1982/87
	/66/67/68	* Harry Ekizian	1968/69/70	* Dr. Antranig Hazarian	1983/88
Murad Mikaelian	1963/64/65	Kourken Ketchian	1969/70	Richard Haroutunian	1984/89
	/66/75/76	Haig Varjian	1969/70	Krikor Anoushian	1987/89
Leon Yeganian	1963/64/65	Leon Boyajian	1970/71	Yervant Kalaycioglu	1988/89
Robert Sarafian	1963/64/65	Hratch Tashjian	1970/71/73	Michael Vartanian	1988/89
	/72/80		/74/75	Hagop Dedeyan	1989

\*Served as chairman

## Our Office Staff

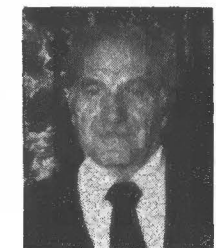
Alice Demirdjian is no stranger among us. She grew up in the church. Being past the ACYOA age group she sang for years in our choir, and she has a fine soprano voice. She joined the League very early and served with humility. She is currently serving as a full time secretary in the church office, a position she has held for twenty six years.

Rupen Gozubuyukian is our devoted sexton, and is forever at the beck and call of everyone, and he obliges with a smile.

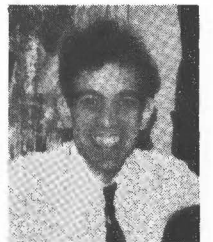
Vahan Tufenkjian, the son of Anahid and the late Dikran Tufenkjian, is a part time employee, helping whenever the occasion arises.



Alice Demirdjian



Rupen  
Gozubuyukian



Vahan Tufenkjian

Congratulations on Your 60th Anniversary  
MR. & MRS. VAUGHN CHAMBERS

In Memory of My Husband Oscar Chapootian, and Parents,  
Eremyah & Anna Ahahigian and Beloved Sisters  
ROSE CHAPOOTIAN



## Diocesan Delegates

The role of a Diocesan Delegate is not a simple one. He must be knowledgeable and have the courage of his convictions. How else can he represent his parish intelligently?

Twenty-two men and women have brought honor to our church since 1929 and others will continue to do so in the future.



Sam Chapootian



Shah Arslan

### Diocesan Delegates 1929-1989

Haig Khojasarian	1929-1936
Vahan Kurkjian	1929-1940
Aramayis Pakradouny	1937-1940
Antranig Desteian	1937-1940
Krikor H. Krikorian	1937-1940
Kevork Danielian	1941-1948
Dr. Yervant Harrian	1941-1948
Levon Arslanian	1941-1956
	1961-1964
Harry Tatosian	1941-1972
Dr. Gulaz Gulazian	1945-1960
George Bashian	1949-1956
Zareh Kapikian	1949-1956
Dr. Paylazon Goodian	1957-1960
Mardiros Taraian	1957-1960
Sumpad Vartabedian	1957-1960
Setrak Ardouny	1961-1972
Edward Bashian	1961-1964
Aram Jaboolian	1961-1968
	1973-1979
Samuel Chapootian	1965-1968
	1981-1989
John Tembeck	1965-1979
Shah Arslan	1969-1979
	1981-1989
Joseph Kalemkerian	1973-1976

## Zvartnotz Choir

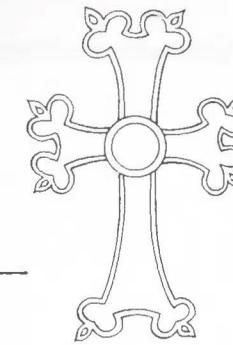
The Holy Cross Church Choir was reorganized in 1984 with new members and was renamed the Zvartnotz Choir. The founding members were Deacon Bedros Ishanian, Alex Kasparian and Sarkis Balikciyan. The first choirmaster was Hagop Kalfayan and the organist was Anna Mintanciyan.

The choir members are former residents of Istanbul (Bolsetzis) and are mostly former members of the Zvartnotz Choir of the Soorp Hovhannes Church in

Gedikpasha, Istanbul.

The choir has approximately 15 members and they participate each Sunday during the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. The present choirmaster is Hagop Dedeayan, with Anna Mintanciyan as the organist, and Arman Ezik is the chairman.

The altar servers are, Deacons Krikor Anoushian, Shant Toshikian, Melkon Adanas and Bedros Ishanian.



### The Prayer of the Cross

*Guard us, O Christ our God, under the shadow of thine holy and precious cross in peace. Deliver us from enemies visible and invisible. Make us worthy to give thanks to thee and to glorify thee with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages.*  
Amen.

*Պահպանեա՛ զմեզ, Քրիստո՛ս Աստուած մեր, ընդ հովանեաւ սուրբ եւ պատուական խաչիւղ քով ի խաղաղութեան. փրկեա՛ յերեւելի եւ յաներեւոյթ թշնամւոյն. արժանաւորեա՛ գոհութեամբ փառաւորել զքեզ ընդ Հօր եւ ընդ Հոգւոյդ Սրբոյ, այժմ եւ միշտ եւ յաւիտեանս յաւիտենից: Ամէն:*

*The Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of our faith. Without it there is no Resurrection. Without it there is no guarantee of eternal life with God. Indeed, without the Cross, our faith is empty.*

*The Cross is the sign that Jesus Christ conquered the most feared enemy of humankind, death. It is the means of salvation for each and every believer. Because of Christ's death and Resurrection, the Cross has been freed from its ignominious position in history to be glorified and honored by all believers.*

*Armenians have known the importance of the Cross for many generations. They have willingly shed their blood time and again as witness to their unshakable faith in Jesus Christ.*

*For a group of believers to take the name of the Holy Cross of Jesus Christ for their fledgling parish, as our founders did in 1928, is a testament to their abiding faith in Him, and their willingness to undergo any hardships in His name. We are proud to have carried the banner of Christ.*

JACKIE & SHAH ARSLAN

*In Memory of Parents, Hovhannes & Repega Issacoulian  
and Husband Hrant Balekjian  
MRS. NEVART BALEKJIAN*



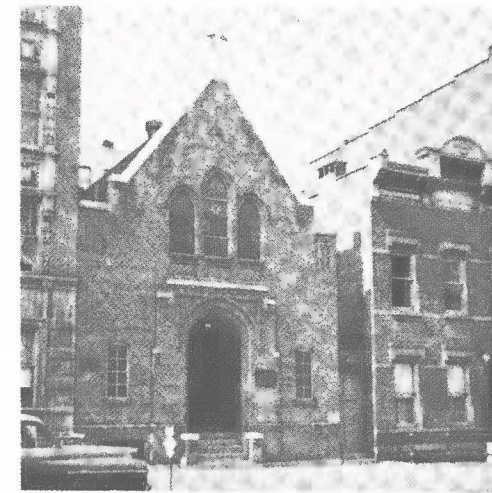
## An Historic Visit

In 1960, a new era was inaugurated when the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of the Armenian Church visited the United States. During that historic initial visit to our shores, His Holiness, Vasken I, made two visits to the Holy Cross Church. It was during his second visit in July of 1960 that the Holy Cross Church became the only Armenian Church in the United States in which His Holiness celebrated the Divine Liturgy. On that historic occasion, His Holiness presented us with a carved "khatch kar" which is placed directly in front of our altar.

Very few will ever forget that memorable day and we have tried to re-create it with the pictures on this page.



## A Historical Glance



Thirty nine years after the first Armenian Church was consecrated in the United States, a new Armenian community was organized in upper Manhattan. Some called it the "uptown church" to distinguish it from the "downtown" St. Gregory. Others called it "Holy Cross - New York" in order not to confuse it with "Holy Cross - Union City".

This then is the story of the "uptown" Holy Cross Church of Armenia. It is not intended to serve as a detailed history, but only as a reminder of the events and people who have made Holy Cross dear to our hearts for these past sixty years.

It all started during the period between 1925-1928 when the Parish Council of the St. Gregory Armenian Church on 30th Street discussed the possibility of relocating the parish to uptown Manhattan. This was considered since a large number of parishioners had moved to the Washington Heights area.

An organizing committee was formed and appeals for funds began. After a short period, in the fall of 1928, the church building on 187th Street was purchased and extensive preparations were made to open the new church with Christmas services on January 6, 1929.

However, at the very last moment, even though the vote had been made, a number of parish council members changed their minds and decided to continue in their quarters on 30th Street. With this decision it became necessary to divide the collected \$2000, and divide it between the St. Gregory Church and the new Holy Cross Church.

This unexpected turn of events put the organizing

committee in a financial bind. Through the generosity of Hovhanes Donelian and Osgan Harutounian, who each advanced \$1000 to cover the necessary payments, the planned first service in the new church took place on January 6, 1929.

The choir at the first service consisted of Mardiros Keoshaian, Samuel Emirkhanian, Dickran Tufenkjian and Nishan Minasian.

With the advice and consent of the Primate, the remaining members of the parish council invited three dedicated parishioners to join the new council. Thus began the Holy Cross Parish in Washington Heights.

The first few years of the fledgling parish proved most trying. The economic disaster that struck the nation, also took its toll in the financial life of Holy Cross. On many an occasion, the mortgage payments were borrowed from devoted parishioners until a time when funds were available.

The first clergyman assigned to the parish was the Rev. Father Haroutune Sarkissian who served until 1932. He was succeeded by Bishop Hovsep Garabedian. In 1935 the Very Rev. Elisha Simonian began his thirty year tenure at the church.

The Armenian School was established in Washington Heights two years before the church was bought. They held classes in various places and finally moved to the church in 1929. The first executive committee members were the following: Mesdames Yerganian, Kouyoumjian, Keoleian, Zabel Aram, Vartanian, Nahigian, Mardig and Yegenian.

In 1930 the Sunday School was established. The first group of teachers were the following headed by Satenig Doekmejian, Grace Varjabedian, Irene Avedikian, Mary Nercesian, Nvart (Parseghian) Mehta, H. K. Araxie and Rose (Berberian) Snyder. The first class numbered 50 children.

The Ladies Auxiliary was organized in 1931 with the following executive committee: Mesdames Yerganian, Keoleian Kamboorian, Kouyumjian and Pacradoony.

The choir which was to become the brightest jewel in our crown was organized in 1930. The first executive committee composed of the following: Aghavnie Yeganian, Nvart Sagherian, Yeran (Harentz) Kirk, Asdghig Daghavarian, Arax (Jaboolian) Takvorian, Hripsime (Maghakian) Mathews. The first choirmaster was Manoug Exerjian.

*In Memory of Our Parents, Sarkis & Vartouhi Sarafian  
and Virginia Kondakian*  
MR. & MRS. ROBERT SARAFIAN

*In Memory of Alice Boghosian*  
VAHAN D. SEWNY





The first issue of the Church Bulletin *ZVART-NOTZ* saw the light of day on September 1, 1929.

1933 was the infamous year in the life of the Armenian Church and Holy Cross in particular. The Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church, Archbishop Ghevont Tourian was assassinated in our church during services on December 24 by political opponents. It was a period in which fear spread throughout the life of our parish. At the request of the parish and with the consent of the Catholicos, the martyred Archbishops body was interred in a newly-built mausoleum adjoining the church.

In 1934, two women, Anahid Tufenkjian and Ann Abajian served on the Parish Council.

In 1937, the entire parish council resigned due to internal differences of opinions. The Diocesan Council appointed a temporary council to serve until the next election of officers.

The Church was consecrated on May 17, 1937 by the Patriarch's Legate Archbishop Karekin Hovsepian. His Grace was assisted by Bishop Hovsep Garabedian, Rev. Simonian, and Rev. Father Untsag Kazanjian.

In the late 1930's, Rev. Simonian organized the youth of the church into two groups, the Holy Cross Juniors and Holy Cross Seniors. The charter members of the Juniors were Virginia Ashjian, Alice Gounulian, Samuel Melkon, Arax Mugurditchian, Pauline Sahagian, Alice Takooshian, George Takooshian, and Grace Varjabedian. The charter members of the senior group were Mae Nercessian, Mabel Atamian, Edward Kehyayan, Bill Tepikian, Marion Barsamian and Virginia Atamian.

Our second decade began with the slogan, "With the help of Almighty God and with determination we shall

all see the rise of a new and greater Holy Cross."

These were the years of the Second World War. Our Honor Roll showed that we sent close to 350 of our boys plus a few girls to the military services. Seven of our youths never returned. They were Harry Kelekian, Kevork Khoushnarian, Peter Samuelian, John Sarafian, John Tashjian, James Topalian, and Diran Kalayjian.

Following the war our parish began to grow. The membership increased from 306 to the unbelievable total of 1000. The annual income rose from \$6,600 to \$32,300.

In 1945, the remainder of the \$14,000 mortgage was terminated, and one year later the choir released the recording of excerpts from the Divine Liturgy.

In 1948, the Rev. Fr. Arten Ashjian was appointed as an assistant to Rev. Simonian while continuing his studies at General Theological Seminary in New York City.

During the early 1950's the parish purchased the building adjoining our old rectory. At the annual membership meeting in January 1951, it was resolved to appoint a committee to explore the possibilities of building a new church. After extensive studies, this committee reported to a special assembly recommending construction.

The Very Rev. Yeghishe Gizirian was appointed as an assistant to Rev. Simonian in 1951.

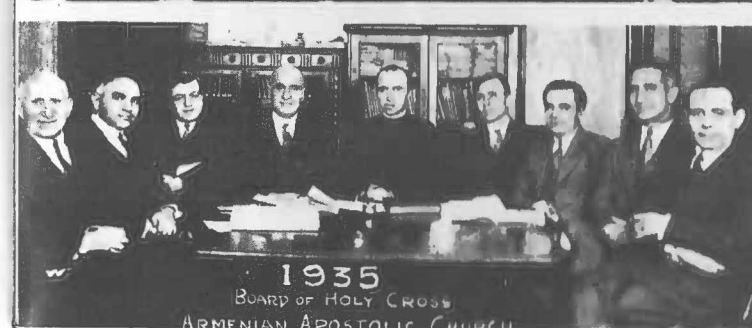
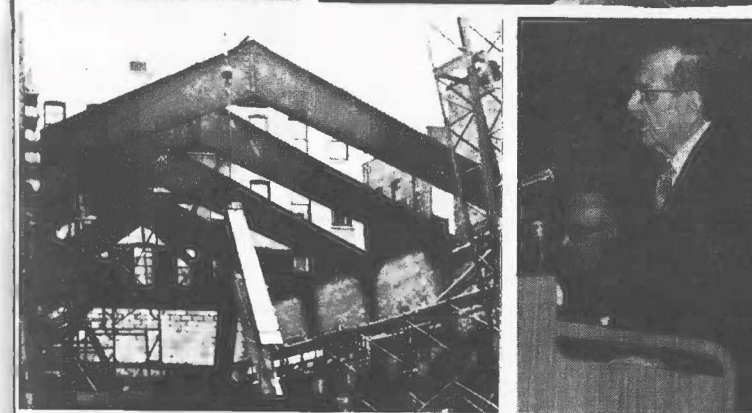
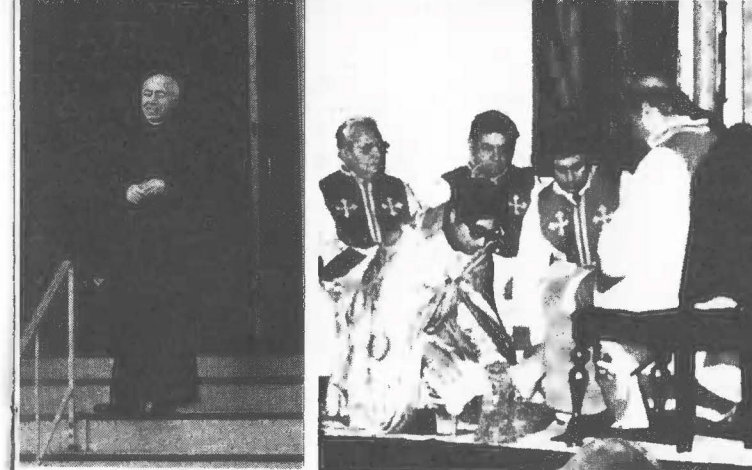
The last service in the old church took place on November 2, 1952 with the Primate of the Diocese, Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan as the celebrant. The following morning the demolition crews began their task. It was during the period of construction that church services were held in the chapel of the Presbyterian Church at 186th Street and St. Nicholas Avenue.

In February 1953, the parish house was completed and the church office was once again ready for use.

The new church was consecrated by Archbishop Mampre Calfayan, assisted by Archbishops Tiran and Tirayre. The Very Rev. Yeghishe and Rev. Fr. Arten also participated.

The Rev. Father Haik Donikian was appointed as an assistant to Rev. Simonian in the mid '50's. In 1958 our church was the scene of a double ordination; on that day, the Primate, Archbishop Mampre Calfayan ordained the Very Rev. Vasken Tatoyan and the Very Rev. Oshin Nicolian to the celibate priesthood. Rev. Nicolian was then appointed as an assistant to Rev. Simonian.

The second half of this decade was notable for the emergence of our young people as the leaders of the



parish. These young men and women brought a youthful zest into what seemed a never ending and heavy chore. They were the children who had attended our Sunday School in the 30's and 40's. Walter Kaprielian and Caspar Kasparian, still in their twenties, became the youngest persons elected to the parish council. Our ACYOA group was considered one of the strongest church youth groups in the Diocese.

It was also during the latter part of this decade that the Holy Martyrs parish in Bayside, N.Y. and the St. Thomas parish in Tenafly, New Jersey were organized. Many of our hard working and talented parishioners who had moved to the suburbs, left our flock to become the pillars of these new parishes.

The fourth decade began on a historic note. On the occasion of his first visit to the United States, the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of the Armenian Church, His Holiness, Vasken I was welcomed to the church by the Very Rev. Hmayag Intoyan who was serving as an assistant to Rev. Simonian. During that visit, His Holiness celebrated the Divine Liturgy in our church and presented us with a *Khatch Kar* (carved cross) which was placed directly in front of the Holy Altar.

In 1965, Bishop Simonian retired from active participation after 30 years of service to the Holy Cross Church. He was then appointed Vicar-General of the Diocese and soon thereafter was elected as the Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church.

The Rev. Fr. Mamigon Vosganian was appointed as our pastor. A short while later we were happy to welcome Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan to join our family and take up residence in our parish house.

For a short period a newly formed Greek parish used our church for services every Sunday following our Divine Liturgy.

In 1969 our church was once again a witness to the ordination of a priest when Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan ordained his nephew the Rev. Father Nersess Jebejian to the Holy Priesthood.

Towards the end of this decade the enrollment in the Armenian and Sunday Schools as well as membership in the parish began to decline due to the exodus to the suburbs.

The 1970's began on a happy note. The 40th Anniversary Dinner of the parish was held at the Haik & Alice Kavookjian Auditorium. Bishop Simonian came from California as the guest of honor and celebrated the Divine Liturgy at Holy Cross on this festive occasion.

In Memory of Nevart Keshishian  
ARAM KESHISHIAN & JOHNNY, & KASARJIAN FAMILY

In Memory of Our Parents, Mihran & Hrakel Shamamian, and Brother Oscar Shamamian  
ZERMOT, VASGEN, VINCENT & GRACE SHAMAMIAN GOLDMAN

In Memory of My Beloved Husband Karnik  
MARY KABJIAN

Good Luck on Your 60th Anniversary  
MR. & MRS. NORAYR BEDROSSIAN



The combined basketball team of St. Gregory-Holy Cross won the 1970 championship of the Metropolitan Churches Sports Association. A great victory dinner held on May 15th climaxed the season.

Shortly thereafter, word came from California that Bishop Elisha Simonian had died. The parish was represented by Fath Mamigon Voskanian and Aram Jaboolian at the solemn funeral services. The Divine Liturgy and last unction took place on October 7, 1970 celebrated and administered by Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan.

The exodus to the suburbs was in full swing. The third parish to be formed by former Holy Cross parishioners was organized in lower Westchester County as the St. James Armenian Church. Our membership began to dwindle. The heavy burden of leadership remained on the shoulders of a small number. They were beginning to tire when help came in the form of new arrivals from overseas. These newcomers have now become accustomed to the ways of America and will soon be a bulwark for Holy Cross.

The parish saw fit to honor three of its members with a testimonial dinner in 1971, Setrag Ardouny, Aram Jaboolian and John Tembeck for their untiring efforts in behalf of their church.

On September 15, 1974, the parish hosted a dual celebration honoring the 45th anniversary of the church and the 70th birthday of Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan. It was a gala affair, held amid great jubilation.

The happy day for which we had been waiting so impatiently finally arrived. On May 18, 1975 Haik Kavookjian's 100th birthday was duly observed with a family-style get-together in the church auditorium, filled to overflowing. This was strictly a family affair, and we enjoyed it.

It was during this decade that Fr. Mamigon Vosganian left us to serve the Armenian parish in Montreal. The Very Rev. Arshen Aivazian was appointed as pastor in 1971, while he attended St. Vladimir's Theological Seminary. He was succeeded by Very Rev. Pagour Dadourian for a short period and then by Father Vartan Megherian in 1976.

Late in the 1970's, two pillars of our parish, Haik Kavookjian and Harry Tatosian passed away. Both men contributed much to the welfare of our parish. Their passing was a great loss for us and for the entire Armenian community.

In June, 1979, Holy Cross joined the Diocese in honoring Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan on the 50th Anniversary of his ordination to the Holy Priesthood, at Kavookjian Hall. The Ladies' Auxiliary cooked the din-



ner, which was served by the young members of the parish. Holy Cross was very fortunate to have had this outstanding clergyman in our midst for all those years.

On Dec. 8th 1979 the parish celebrated the 50th Anniversary of its consecration, with a gala dinner-dance in the Kavookjian Auditorium. Over 300 persons attended, with many former members attending to commemorate this jubilee.

Though many parishioners had moved to the suburbs, the parish continued to lead an active life with the participation of the remaining old timers and the newly arrived.

The new Zvartnotz choir was organized in 1984 primarily with recent arrivals from Istanbul.

The Holy Cross League and the Ladies Guild continued to sponsor dinners and social events for the community. Each September, a hardy group has trekked downtown to participate in the Diocesan outdoor "One World Festival".

In September of 1986, His Beatitude, Abp. Shnork Kalustyan travelled from Istanbul to consecrate the painting for the shine of Charkhapan Soorp Asdvadzadzin.

On a sad note, two of our assigned pastors passed away during the '80s. Rev. Father Vartan Megherian in 1984 and Rev. Father Guregh Kalfayan in 1988. For a brief period late in 1988 Rev. Father Diran Papazian served as the visiting pastor.

Though our parish has been without a pastor, a number of clergymen have visited on sundays to celebrate the Divine Liturgy. They have been His Beatitude, Abp. Shnork Kalustyan, Abp. Tiran Ner-

soyan, Abp. Torkom Manoogian, Abp. Sion Manoo-gian, Very Rev. Khajag Barsamian, Very Rev. Vazken Tatoyan, Very Rev. Mesrob Semerjian, Rev. Fr. Arten Ashjian, Rev. Fr. Parea Metjian, Rev. Fr. Vartan Jankulian, Rev. Fr. Carnig Hallajian, Rev. Fr. Diran Papazian, and Rev. Fr. Mardiros Chevian.

During the 1980's Testimonial Dinners held in the Kachajian Auditorium have honored, Mardiros Keosheian, Aram & Nevart Keshishian, John Tembeck, Eli & Zavart Boghosian, Rev. Fr. Guregh Kalfayan on the 25th Anniversary of his ordination. All former Parish Council chairmen, the 40th Anniversary of the Holy Cross League, Sam Chapootian, Rupen Gozubuyukian, Zvartnotz Choir, and the 80th birthday of Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan as well as the 60th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

Just prior to the preparation of this booklet, our community suffered a great loss when our dear Archbishop Tiran entered into his eternal rest.

During these past sixty years a great many dedicated men and women have given of themselves so that our Holy Cross Church would flourish and prosper. Many of them are no longer with us to share the joy of this day.

To all of them, lay and clergy, we owe our deepest gratitude. We were blessed to have had them in our midst, and we pray for their eternal rest.

Sixty years of memories have passed. The Holy Cross parish which has prevailed through good times and bad, continues to exist. Ten years from now, God willing, we will once again gather together to celebrate another milestone.

So be it.

*In Memory of My Mother & Father, Haighouie & Boghos Kondrajian*  
ANNE KONDRAJIAN

*In Loving Memory of Our Parents and Sister,*  
Nishan, Araxie & Sonia Avakian, and Sirma Balajian  
MR. & MRS. PUZANT BALAIAN



## The Shrine of Charkhapan



The first shrine of the Armenian Church dedicated to Charkhapan Soorp Asdvadzadzin in the U.S. was dedicated in the Holy Cross Church in 1986. The painting of St. Mary with the infant Jesus from the historic Charkhapan Shrine of Armash (a village near Adapazar, Turkey) was artistically reproduced by the artist Simon Samsonian.

His Beatitude, Archbishop Shnork Kalustyan, the Patriarch of the Armenians in Turkey was invited for the dedication services. He consecrated the painting during evening vespers on September 13, 1986. The following day on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross His Beatitude celebrated the Divine Liturgy in the presence of a large number of faithful. Since that day, it has become a tradition to bless madagh on this feast day annually.

Charkhapan is one of the adjectives given to St. Mary, Soorp Asdvadzadzin, who is the most venerated saint in the Orthodox as well as in the Roman Catholic Church. She heads the list of the saints because She

played the most important role in the life of Christ by being His Mother. In our prayers we frequently and constantly ask for Her intercession because she completely submitted to God's will when she was asked. She showed the greatest humility and patience in her daily life and exhibited an heroic stamina under the most trying circumstances at the Crucifixion of Her Son. Her picture with Baby Jesus in her arms decorates the main altar of the Armenian Churches.

In historic Armenia and its surroundings they still have numerous shrines dedicated to Soorp Asdvadzadzin who is also referred to as Charkhapan because *char* or evil does not exist near Her. The most famous of these shrines was the Shrine of Armash, a village nearby Adapazar, Turkey where a miraculous picture of Soorp Asdvadzadzin – referred as Charkhapan was kept.

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross was the traditional date for the annual pilgrimage to visit the shrine where numerous miracles had been witnessed.





sed through the intercession of Soorp Asdvadzadzin. The shrine to which the famous theological seminary of Armash was associated, perished during the 1915 genocide along with the miraculous picture.

The first shrine dedicated to Charkhapan was in the town of Soorghat in Crimea, Russia. When the Ottoman Emperor Sultan Mehmet II conquered Constantinople in 1453, he brought Armenians from Crimea to his newly conquered city and had them settled in the districts of Karagumruk and Salmatomruk.

These Armenians brought with them the venerated miraculous picture of Charkhapan Soorp Asdvadzadzin, from the church in Soorghat and placed it in their houses of worship. We find this picture placed in Soorp Ohan Vosguperan (St. John the Chrysostom) Church which was built in 1827 in Karagumruk.

This church was the official Shrine of Charkhapan, and Thursdays were the days of weekly pilgrimage. Armenians and even non-Christians visited this abode

to pray for the intercession of the Holy Mother for the fulfillment of their wishes. Ormanian, in his *Az-kabadoom*, mentions that the income of this church was so high that part of it was allocated for the upkeep of the Armash Seminary.

Soorp Ohan Vosguperan Church was razed by a fire in 1900. The miraculous picture of Charkhapan was saved by Father Aristakes Tashjian and with the decree of Patriarch Ormanian it was placed on the right altar of the nearby Holy Archangels Church in Balat, Istanbul.

Until now, divine liturgy is still celebrated for pilgrims on Thursdays in this church. The date of the annual pilgrimage to this Shrine is the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. This Shrine is also referred to as Poker (small) Armash because it has been fulfilling the needs of those who could not travel to Armash.

## The Ladies Auxiliary



LADIES AUXILIARY COMMITTEE

The Ladies' Auxiliary Society of the Holy Cross Church was organized in May, 1931. Through the years this stellar organization has faithfully served the parish in many capacities whenever called upon.

From its inception the women of the group have been the backbone of the successful annual Bazaars. In addition to serving Holy Cross, the women have also aided functions sponsored by St. Vartan Cathedral. In recent years the society has lent its assistance to the One World Festival, the Bi-Centennial festival and numerous gala events of the parish.

The women meet regularly once a month at a luncheon in the church auditorium, and present a cultural program. Without exaggeration it can be said that the Holy Cross Ladies' Auxiliary is the backbone of this parish.

### CHAIRPERSONS OF THE LADIES' AUXILIARY

Zabel Yerganian, first chairman	1931
Lucig Keoleian	1932-1933
Arshalouys Kouyoumjian	1934-1937
Asdghig Ignatius	1938-1941
Aghavni Tatosian	1942-1947
	1955-1956
Nevart Malian	1950-1952
Manishag Kougasian	1952-1953
Anna Taraian	1957
Asdghig Kaishian	1958-1960
Mari Barberian	1961-1967
Vartiter Darson	1968-1969
Haigouhi Markarian	1970
Mary Tukdarian	1971-1972
Sona Aharonian	1973-1977
Marie Norarevian	1978-1980
Vartouhi Vartoukian	1981
Arax Mirjanian	1982 to present

Best Wishes From  
ELI & ZAVART BOGOSIAN  
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

Compliments of Matador Chemical Corp.  
GREGORY BOGOSIAN, Pres.

MICHAEL HALEBIAN

In Memory Of Baidzar Kapikian,  
Levon & Mihran Bazikian,  
My Parents, Kaloust & Anna Kapikian  
May God Bless Our Wonderful Holy Cross Church  
ZAREH KAPIKIAN





HOLY CROSS LEAGUE COMMITTEE

The Holy Cross League exemplifies dedication, devotion and diligence.

Since its inception, in 1944, league members have become involved in many areas and numerous activities with a universal object in mind to sustain Holy Cross Church and for the betterment of the parish.

These loyal women, have actively planned and executed dinners, plays, fashion shows, card parties, bazaars, picnics, one-world festivals, theatre parties and New Year's Eve affairs. Holy Cross League has

always wholeheartedly supported and performed as one.

The constant spirit of togetherness has nurtured us throughout the years. The league has been fortunate in having at its helm conscionable chairpersons with charisma and creativity.

Holy Cross League has many offspring in the metropolitan churches and it is pleasing to mention that their projects are carried on in true Holy Cross tradition.

The women who have led this group are the following:

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1944 — League was formed<br>Alice Bashian | 1957-1960 — Akaby Vartabedian        |
| 1945 — Alice Bashian                      | 1961 — Mary Azarian                  |
| 1946 — Nevair Shahdanian                  | 1962 — Marguerite Shabazian          |
| 1947 — Esther Tashjian                    | 1963 — Ruth Sanossian                |
| 1948 — Alice Goulazian                    | 1964 — Sona Marie Assadourian        |
| 1949 — Mary Gasparian                     | 1965 — Akaby Vartabedian             |
| 1950 — Elizabeth Bostanjian               | 1966-1967 — Anne Moscato             |
| 1951 — Victoria Hovasapian                | 1968-1969 — Adeline Tegnazian        |
| 1951-1954 — Virginia Hintlian             | 1970-1979 — Marion Barsamian         |
| 1955 — Esther Tashjian                    | 1980-1987 — Zavart Bogosian          |
| 1956 — Marguerite Shabazian               | 1988 to present — Malvine Pakradooni |

*In Memory of Our Loved Ones*  
MR. & MRS. JAMES HAROUTUNIAN

*In Memory Of Our Beloved Husband & Father, Rev. Fr. Guregh Kalfayan*  
YERETZKIN SHAKEH, KEVORK, GARO,  
KAREN & CHRIS KALFAYAN

*In Loving Memory Of Grandparents,*  
Lousaper & Simon Kachajian  
LEVON & ARMINE ALTIPARMAKIAN



## The Annual Picnic

One of the highlights each year has been the Annual Holy Cross Picnic. Even though the threat of rain is always present, the years have been good to us and we have been forced indoors only a few times. The day of the picnic is one when old friends come together under a pleasant atmosphere, eat and drink and have a good time.

However, besides all those attending the picnic enjoying themselves are a group of dedicated men and women who are behind the scenes, preparing, cooking, selling and being generally useful.

For many years in the 40's the picnic was held at a grove on the palisades overlooking the George Washington Bridge.

The locale has moved many times and in recent years it has been held on the grounds of sister churches in New Jersey.





## The Memorial Windows

The beautiful memorial windows in our church were the work of a well known concern in the metropolitan area. Permit us to describe and introduce them to you.

As you face the altar, to your right and from the front of the church you will first see the beautiful window in the chapel. This is the gift of Mr. Haik Kavookjian to the memory of his parents, Sarkis and Nartig Kavookjian.

The second window is directly over the side door and is in memory of Leon R. Semerdjian donated by his son Roupén, and depicts the baptism of Christ.

The third window picturing the Resurrection is in memory of Aramays Pacradoony and was donated by his widow Mrs. Ankine Pacradoony.

The fourth and last window on that side shows a beautiful setting with Nerses Shnorhaly as the central motif. This is to the memory of Boghos Markarian. Mr. and Mrs. Haig Markarian were the generous contributors.

On the left side again facing the altar and from the front of the church, the first window shows Christ carrying the cross to Calvary. This is the gift of Mrs. Mesrob Avakian in memory of her parents Avedis and Vernon Avedisian.

To the memory of Baghdasar Kazazian, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Kazazian have donated the second window showing St. Gregory the Illuminator.

The last window showing the heroic figure of St. Vartan is the gift of Mr. Charles B. Bedrossian in memory of his parents Sarkis and Buyzar Bedrossian.

We are indebted to the kind people named above for their generosity. Not only have they honored a loved one but they have also contributed to make Holy Cross the beautiful church it deserves to be.



## The Pews

MICHAEL BEKMEZIAN 1931-1952	DONATED BY MR. & MRS. LEVON ARSLANIAN	MIHRAN KALEMKERIAN 1866-1947	ASADOUR ERGANIAN 1878-1938
DONATED BY DR. & MRS. JOHN KARNIG	IN MEMORIUM HAGOP & PARIS JABOOLIAN	HAGOP TEMBEKJIAN 1887-1927	IN MEMORIUM SHAHIN & MARIAM VAKASSIAN
IN MEMORIUM KRIKOR KARAKASHIAN	IN MEMORIUM BOGOSIAN FAMILY	DONATED BY MR. & MRS. ARA L. YARDUM	DONATED BY EDWARD, GRACE AND ADRIENNE ALEXANIAN
MUGURDICH KAPIKIAN 1886-1941	IN MEMORIUM KRIKOR & VERKIN MINASIAN KHACHIG & SOPHIE HAGOPIAN	MELINE (MELEK) BOUCHAKJIAN 1874-1945	IN MEMORIUM GRACE (SHNORIG) BALIAN
OHANNES & NEVRUK KESHISHIAN 1870-1950 1880-1946	IN MEMORIUM VARTAN KAPRIELIAN KALOUST & NOUSHIAN	IN MEMORIUM ARAKELIAN FAMILY GUZELIAN FAMILY	ARTIN BEDOUKIAN 1870-1915
IN MEMORIUM KALOUST, ANNA, ROSEANN KAPIKIAN	HAROUTUNE KELESHIAN 1882-1948	ALBERT GEZURIAN 1887-1933	EDWARD KURKJIAN 1887-1933
IN MEMORIUM MEGHINE KOUMJIAN ZUMROOT KURKJIAN	DONATED BY PARSEGH E. DIKRANOUHI GARABEDIAN	MICHAEL BOYAJIAN 1888-1945	DONATED BY ONNIK KALEMKERIAN
DONATED BY ARSHAG OERMENJIAN	IN MEMORIUM HAGOP, DIROUHI, LEVON BATZANIAN	DONATED BY MR. & MRS. ONNIG KADEMIAN	DONATED BY ARSHALOOS KALEMKERIAN
MIHRAN VARJABEDIAN 1878-1954	HAGOP HALEBIAN 1891-1944	SARRIS & VARTANOUSS HALEBIAN 1884-1947 1898-1950	DONATED BY MR. & MRS. MANOOG BARGAMIAN
HAROUTYUN NAKASHIAN 1877-1953	IN MEMORIUM HAROUTUNE & ZAROUHI CHAKMAKIAN	IN MEMORIUM DIRAN KALAJIAN	IN MEMORIUM DICKRAN & ASTRIG JAMAKORZIAN
ALICE NAKASHIAN 1908-1928	DONATED BY MR. & MRS. S. M. ARDOUNY	IN MEMORIUM MARDIROSS BADOIAN (CHENKOUSHTZI)	DONATED BY MANOOG DERDERIAN
YERVANT SAHAKIAN 1879-1923	ELLEN DOURIAN ZAKIAN 1897-1927	ANTRANIG DESTEIAN 1872-1951	HOVANNES ISSACOUZIAN 1852-1942
JOHN GORGORIAN 1891-1945	DONATED BY MR. & MRS. HATCHIK NASSIB	IN MEMORIUM AUEDIS & MARIAM ATCHOUKIAN	IN MEMORIUM GARABED & FELOR GUEOUJIAN
HAIG KALEBJIAN 1874-1940	DONATED BY MR. & MRS. KRIKOR TIMOURIAN	DONATED BY CHARLES B. BEDROSSIAN	DONATED BY MR. & MRS. HAIG HAGOPIAN

Listed above are the names of the thoughtful Holy Cross parishioners who have been so kind as to donate the pews which grace our church. Also listed are those dear departed whose living kin saw fit to perpetuate their memory in this fitting manner.

In Memory Of My Son Caspar M. Kasparian  
MRS. NELLY KASPARIAN

In Loving Memory Of Parents,  
Garabed & Azad Alamian and  
Nazar & Jenieve Mikaelian  
ELIZABETH & TONY MIKAELIAN

In Loving Memory of  
Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan,  
Dear Friend and Incomparable Teacher  
NONA BALAKIAN

Congratulations  
MR. & MRS. DAVID DAVIDIAN & FAMILY

In Memory Of My Beloved Parents,  
Husband Armen and Brother Souren  
ARAX G. MIRJANIAN

In Loving Memory of Acabie Krikorian  
THE KRIKORIAN FAMILY

In Loving Memory Of Our Parents,  
Avak & Araxy Dakesian, and Irving & Eva Tellit  
JERRY & MABEL TELLIT

In Memory Of My Husband  
Hatchik Simonian & Loved Ones  
DORIS SIMONIAN



*Congratulations to Holy Cross on its 60th Anniversary*

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*Compliments of*  
KRIKOR ANOUSHIAN & MOTHER VICTORIA ANOUSHIAN

TOM & ARPY GALLO

*In Memory Of My Mother*  
ARAM GOZUBUYUKIAN

*In Memory Of My Husband Vahan Norarevian*  
MRS. MARIE NORAREVIAN

MRS. HANNUM MARKARIAN

*Compliments Of*  
MR. & MRS. MARTIN & AZNIV MANUELIAN

DOLORES Z. LIEBMANN

CAROL & HENRY LOSHIGIAN

*In Loving Remembrance of Barsam Barsamian,  
and Son-In-Law James S. Kapakjian*  
MRS. YERANOUHI BARSAMIAN

WALTER KAPRIELIAN & FAMILY

*In Memory Of Our Mothers Zagine Gozubuyukian & Luci Uryan*  
MR. & MRS. HAGOP URYAN

*In Loving Memory of Mirjan Kirian, Beloved Husband and Father,  
and Mother, Areknaz Margossian*  
ROSE, SOSIE & VIKEN KIRIAN

MR. & MRS. DIRAN ISKENDERIAN



**60TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE**

Sam Chapootian, Chairman

Robert Sarafian	Robert Zarookian
Shah Arslan	Aram Gozubuyukian
Hagop Uryan	Arax G. Mirjanian
(Parish Council Chairman)	(Chairlady Women's Guild)
Krikor Anoushian	Malvine Pakradooni
Charles Garabedian	(Chairlady
James Haroutunian	Holy Cross League)
Michael Vartanian	Dorothy Chapootian
Hagop Dedeyan	Marion Haroutunian
Yervant Kantar	Marie Uryan
Norayr Uryan	Alice Demirdjian
Richard Haroutunian	Joseph Kalemkerian
Yervant Kalaycioglu	(Booklet Chairman)



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*Patrons*

VAHAN & BERGUHI BAKALIAN

*In Memory of My Parents, Hagop & Srpouhi*  
GARO PILAVIAN

*In Memory Of Mother Vartuhi Kidikyan*  
MR. & MRS. YERVANT KANTAR

*In Loving Memory of My Husband Haig Jevahirjian*  
ARPINE JEVAHIRJIAN

*In Memory Of My Parents, Vahram & Annik Kessisian*  
MALVINE PAKRADOONI

*In Memory Of Loved Ones*  
MR. & MRS. HENRY SANOSSIAN

MR. & MRS. NORAYR URYAN

*In Loving Memory of*  
*Kevork & Annig Carabedian*

*In Loving Memory of*  
*Melkon, Kohar & Melik Ohanesian*

*Friends*

*In Memory Of a Dear Friend,*  
*Bishop Elisha H. Simonian*  
ALICE & DENISE DEMIRDJIAN

*In Memory Of Loved Ones*  
SIRVART ARSLANIAN  
MR. & MRS. MIRIJOHN GIVELEKIAN

*In Memory Of My Husband Hagop, and Parents*

*Haroutune & Kohar Topalian & Family*

MRS. LOUSIN H. CHOLAKIAN

MARIAN PARSEKIAN

DR. RICHARD E. MIKAELIAN

GREGORY ZORTHIAN

MR. & MRS. OSCAR KURKJIAN

*In Loving Memory of Parsegh Hachikian*  
MR. & MRS. MUNAG HACHIKIAN & FAMILY

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*Boosters*

JACK ABAJIAN

REV. & MRS. ARTEN ASHJIAN

MARGARET MAROOTIAN

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**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This booklet could not have been completed without the assistance of a few individuals.

I wish to express my appreciation to Charles Garabedian for supplying photos of recent events, and to Krikor Anoushian for supplying the material for the story of the Shrine of Charkhapan.

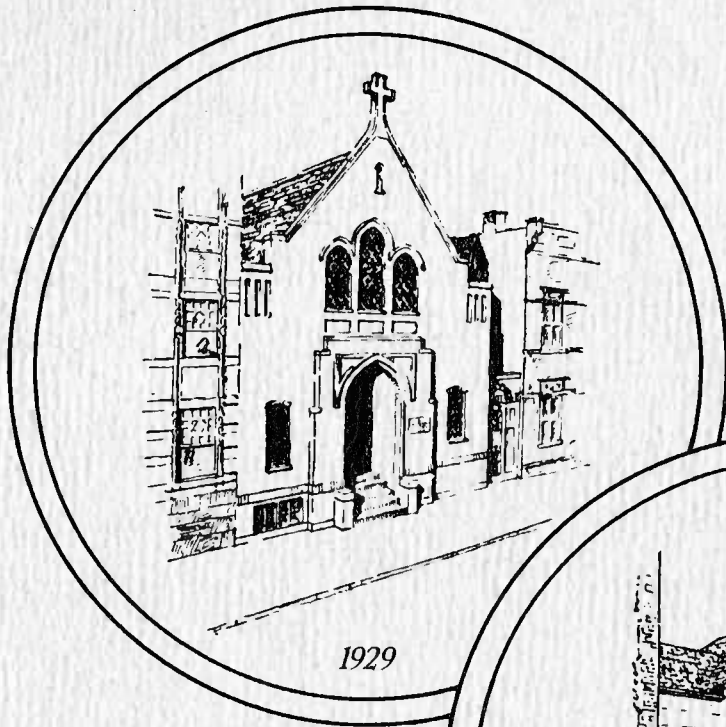
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And finally my appreciation to Louise Kalemkerian who wrote material and gave encouragement to complete this task.

Joseph Kalemkerian  
Booklet Chairman  
October 29, 1989





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