

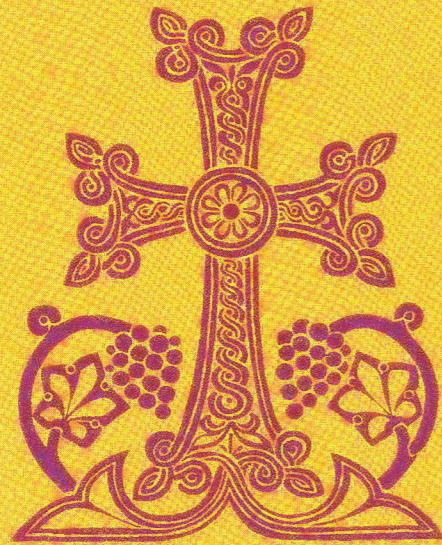


*Fiftieth Anniversary*  
*Holy Cross Church of Armenia*

ՅԻՄՆԱՄԵԱՅ ՅՈՒԲԵԼԵԱՆ ՍԲ. ԽԱՉ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԵԱՅՑ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻՈՅ

1929-1979





*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 these 50 years; we pray that we can continue to do so for many more.*

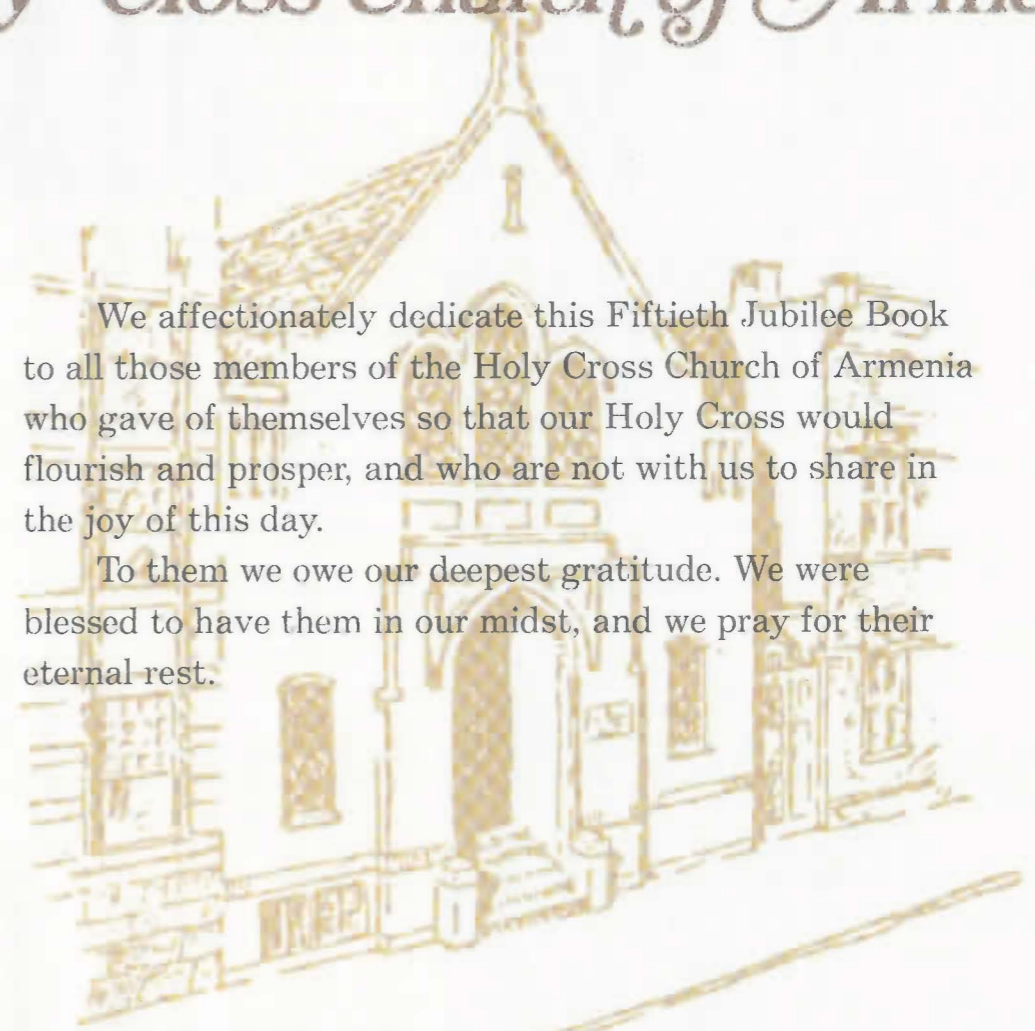
To

HAIK,

"Sorrow is not  
forever  
Love is"

ALICE KAVOOKJIAN

## *Fiftieth Anniversary Holy Cross Church of Armenia*



We affectionately dedicate this Fiftieth Jubilee Book to all those members of the Holy Cross Church of Armenia who gave of themselves so that our Holy Cross would flourish and prosper, and who are not with us to share in the joy of this day.

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

ՅԻՍՆԱՄԵԱՅ ՅՈՒԲԵԼԵԱՆ  
ՍԲ. ԽԱԶ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԵԱՅՑ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻՈՅ

1929-1979



## Foreword

There is a strange mystique that surrounds our Holy Cross Church: namely, one never really and totally leaves the church, despite the fact that one may have moved away as so many have, and have joined and become active parishioners in other churches. It seems once a part of this church, a part of you stays. One need only to go through this anniversary issue and read names of sponsors who have contributed toward the cost of producing this book and one will see names of individuals and families who are no longer members of Holy Cross but continue to respond whenever the need arises.

For example, this 50th Anniversary book was to be done by the late Aram Jaboolian. He had great plans for an outstanding issue, but his untimely departure left an obvious void. Sam Chapootian, parish council chairman, asked me to undertake this project, and of course I could not refuse. However, for personal reasons I found I needed help, professional know-how, and fast! I turned to Joseph Kalemkerian, who now with his family lives in Paramus, New Jersey, and is an active member of St. Thomas Church in Tenafly; his wife Louise is superintendent of the Sunday School. Mr. Kalemkerian accepted the responsibility without a moment's hesitation and I shall be forever grateful to him. Joe deserves the full credit for the production of this book.

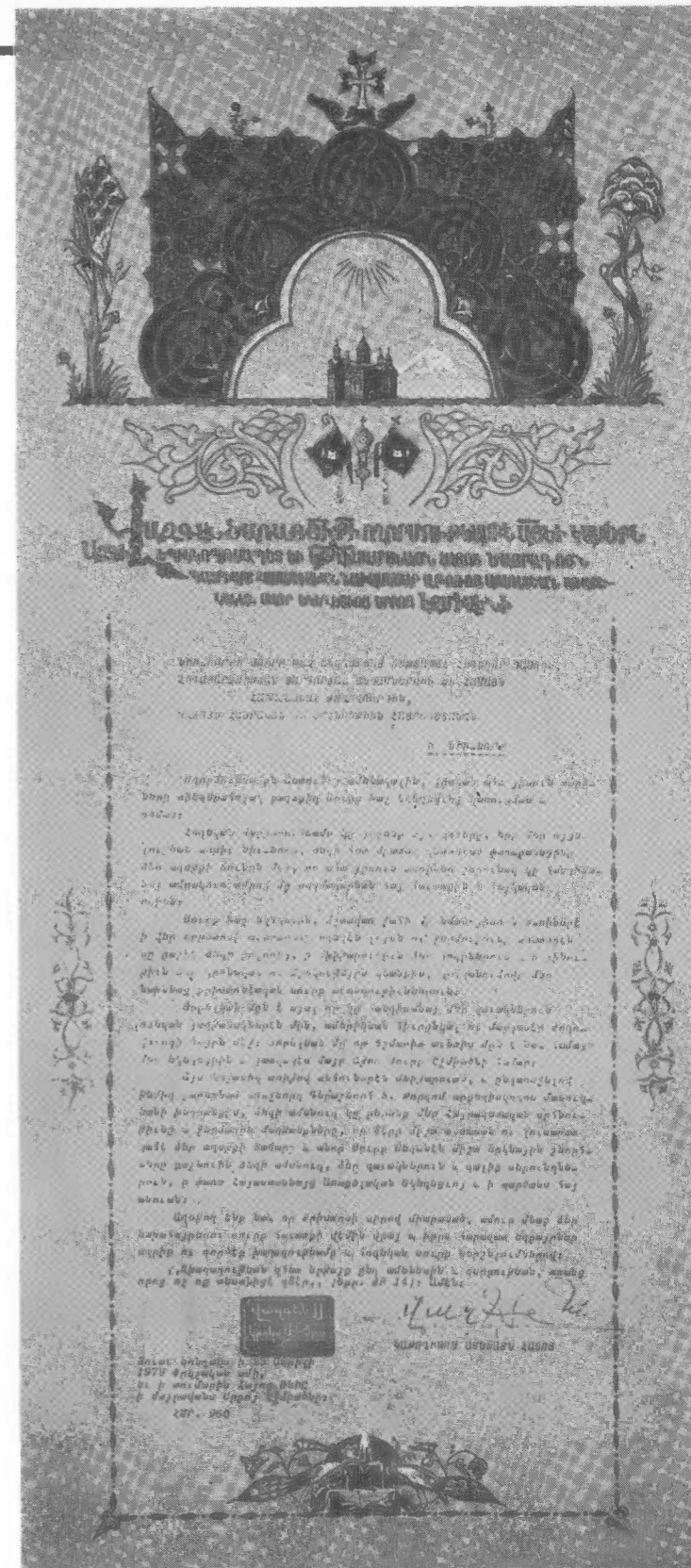
As to the state of affairs of Holy Cross: population shift has decimated its membership, which at one time included a large number of members of Holy Martyrs in Bayside, Long Island, St. Thomas in Tenafly, St. Leon's in Fairlawn, N.J., the Westchester church, and so on. However, despite a serious drop in membership, Holy Cross continues to serve the spiritual needs of its parishioners, and so long as we have such dedicated men and women serving on its parish council, Ladies' Auxiliary, and Holy Cross League, under the guidance of its pastor, Father Vartan Megherian, Holy Cross will continue for many years to come.

Congratulations to Holy Cross on its 50th Anniversary!

John Tembeck



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



Encyclical issued by  
His Holiness  
on the occasion  
of the 50th Anniversary

In Memory Of Haik Kavookjian  
FROM A CLOSE FRIEND AND ADMIRER



Jimmy Carter  
President of  
The United States



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON  
May 3, 1979

To the Congregation of the Holy Cross  
Church of Armenia

Congratulations on the anniversary of your  
congregation. It is a pleasure to send my  
very best wishes to all of you and to join  
in your prayers for continued spiritual  
strength for all Americans.

"I Love My Holy Cross Church"  
JOHNNY KESHISHIAN



Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Primate,  
Diocese of the Armenian Church



## ԱՌԱՋՆՈՐԴՈՒԹԻՒՆ ՀԱՅՈՑ

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

ARCHBISHOP TORKOM MANOOGIAN, PRIMATE

ԱՌԱՋՆՈՐԴ ՄՐԱՋԱՆ ՀՕՐ ԽՕՍԷԸ  
ՆԻՒ ԵՈՐԸԻ ՍՈՐԻԲ ՈՍԶ ԵԵԵՆՑԻՈՑ ՀԱՄԱՅՆՔԻՆ

Հոգեկան անխառն հրճուանքով կը ըմբռնենք Նիւ Եորքի Ս. Խաչ Եկեղեցւոյ համայն-  
քի ուրախութիւնը՝ իր Աղօթքի Տան կառուցման եւ օժման 50-ամեակին առթիւ:

Յորելինական այս հանդիսութիւնը ինքնին փաստն է Ս. Խաչ Եկեղեցւոյ հոգևոր  
կենսոյ կենսունակութեան եւ վճռակամ որոշումին՝ անխափան շարունակելու սկսուած  
եւ յիսուն տարիներէ ի վեր ի գործ դրուած աստուածահաճոյ առաքելութիւնը:

Մենք անձնապէս կը վկայենք որ Նիւ Եորքի Ս. Խաչ Եկեղեցին, իր կէս դարու  
գործունէութեամբ, ոչ միայն Տիրոջ կենարար խօսքը ջամբած է մեր հաւատացեալնե-  
րուն՝ այլ պատրաստած է առողջ սերունդ մը, որ իր ստացած հոգևոր եւ ազգային  
կրթութիւնը ի սպաս դրած է այլ համայնքներու կազմութեան եւ զարգացման նուիրա-  
կան գործին նւս:

Յորելինական այս տօնախմբութիւնը առիթ մը կու տայ մեզի ոգեկոյնելու յիշատա-  
կը այն եկեղեցաւեր, ազգաւեր եւ նուիրեալ մեր հոգևոր զաւակներուն՝ որոնք ան-  
տեսելով ամէն դժուարութիւն իրականացուցին եւ միշտ կենդանի պահեցին Ս. Խաչ  
Եկեղեցւոյ համայնքի սնուցած տեսիլքը: Անոնց հոգիները այս պահուս ներկայ են  
մեր մէջ եւ մեզի հետ կ'ուրախանան՝ տեսնելով որ իրենց անձուրութեան եւ գոհո-  
ղութեան ոգին փոխանցուած է իրենց յաջորդ սերունդներուն:

Որպէս Առաջնորդ Ամերիկայի Հայոց, մեր սրտարուի մաղթանքն է որ Աստուծոյ  
օրհնութիւնը միշտ պահպան ըլլայ Ս. Խաչ Եկեղեցւոյ մեր համայնքին, եւ Հոգևոր  
Հովիւ, Ժխական Խորհուրդ ու Եկեղեցական կազմակերպութիւններ միշտ ծաղկուն պա-  
հեն համայնքի հոգևոր, կրթական, մշակութային եւ ազգային կենսոյ:

Սիրոյ ողջունիւ

ԹՈՐԳՈՄ ՄՐԵՅԴԻՍՆՈՐՈՍ  
Առաջնորդ

Դեկտեմբեր 1, 1979  
Նիւ Եորք, Ն.Յ.

MR. AND MRS. SETRAG M. ARDOUNY





The celebration of the 50th Anniversary of our church is indeed a golden occasion for joy and for relating the rich history of its achievements. At this milestone, we see passing before our eyes, the parade of all the devoted sacrifices, the enthusiastic work, and the fruitful achievements of the members of the Holy Cross family. We have provided, for fifty continuous years, spiritual and Armenian nourishment to two generations and have become a telling example to our sister churches.

This 50th Anniversary strengthens us with the pride of our rich past and the spiritual values of our faith. It should spur us to continue our search for the salvation of our souls and should serve as an occasion for renewal so that we may endure in this trying time which threatens our Christian faith and Armenian identity.

It is my heartfelt prayer that the Almighty Lord guard and keep our beloved church under His divine protection, make fruitful the efforts of those now working in His vineyard, and sanctify all the departed members of Holy Cross, forever blessing their loving memory.

Rev. Father Vartan Megherian  
Pastor

*Congratulations On Your 50th Anniversary*  
MR. AND MRS. VAUGHN CHAMBERS



Being a Parish Council Chairman has been a rewarding experience these many years.

The years from 1963-1968 as Chairman, were times of transition and change. The transitions at Holy Cross began due to the establishment of new parishes. This led to a reduction of our own members, resulting in financial problems. We reassessed our position and increased our activities, by more successful Picnics and Bazaars. We activated our Armenian and Sunday Schools.

Our pastor Bishop Simonian, after thirty three years of service, was elected Primate of the Western Diocese. He was succeeded by Rev. Vosganian. Our parish was fortunate upon the arrival of Archbishop Nersoyan, in the 1960's for the guidance he would give to our church.

The decade of 1973-1979 our theme was to hold the parish intact. In 1976 Rev. Vartan Megerian became our new Pastor. We heightened our activities further, to meet our ever increasing financial budget. The 1970's left a gap in our church by the death of Mr. Haik Kavookjian. We also named our auditorium, "The Simon and Lousaper Kechejian Hall."

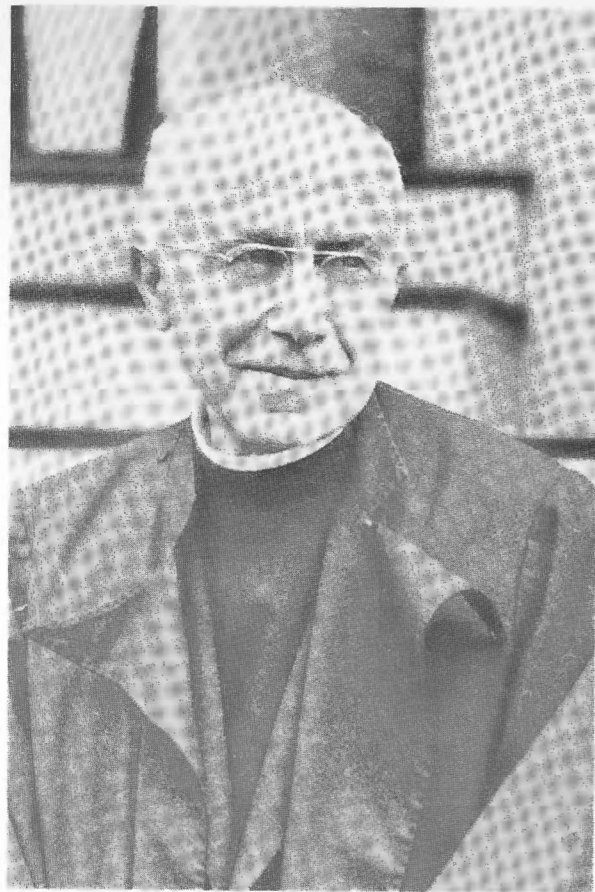
Holy Cross Church has always been faced with obstacles from its birth, up to its golden year which is now upon us. Our future has a bright path ahead. We will always be striving to improve and strengthen this path, so that our coming generations may walk proudly.

Sam Chapootian  
Chairman,  
Parish Council

*In Memory Of Oscar Chapootian*  
MR. AND MRS. SAM CHAPOOTIAN AND FAMILY



## Bishop Elisha H. Simonian



This saintly man will always remain and be remembered as "HAYR SOORP," though he died a Bishop. Most of his parishioners would have continued to subconsciously refer to him as "HAYR SOORP," even if he had been elected to the highest office of the Armenian Church as Catholicos.

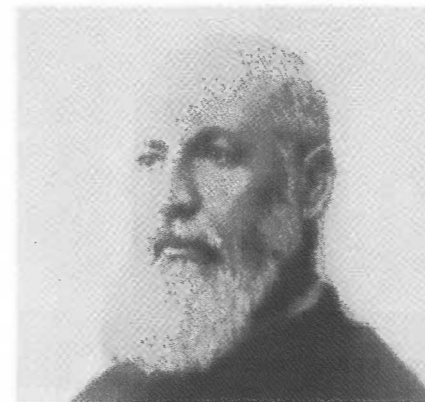
The literal transliteration of Hayr Soorp is Holy Father and indeed he was our father. Nearly everyone of us turned to him at one time or another with our problems and received the benefit of his wisdom, his humanity and his compassion. For 30 happy years, Hayr Soorp served as its priest. He was indeed truly the pastor of his flock. He loved his people, all of them and in turn the entire parish likewise loved and respected him.

When Elisha Simonian, then a very young Vartabed, came to us from Bridgeport, there was much doubt that this young and inexperienced priest would succeed, but succeed he did. During his tenure, Holy Cross grew to become one of the largest and active parishes in the entire American Diocese. At its height there were over 600 dues paying families and if you add non-dues paying supporters, the number would run over 1500. We recall an Annual Picnic held in the Tappan Picnic Grounds when over 2100 people, men, women and children attended. Such was the growth and popular support by Armenians throughout greater New York for "Soorp Khatch Yegeghetzi."

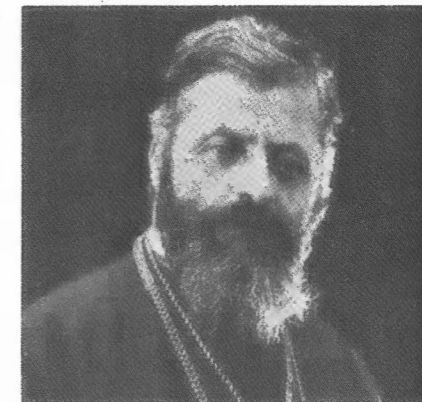
Hayr Soorp always had a funny story, an amusing anecdote to tell us. He possessed a beautiful, saintly but pixy face that always had a twinkle in his eyes. Simply take another look at his face that appears on this page and you will see gentility, warmth and an over abundance of grace and humility. May God bless and keep you in His arms, dear, beloved Hayr Soorp.

MR. AND MRS. EDWARD G. BASHIAN

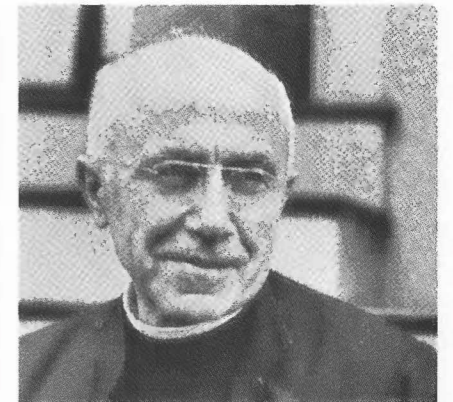
## Pastors and Assistant Pastors 1929-1979



REV. FR. HAROUTUNE SARKISIAN  
1929-1932



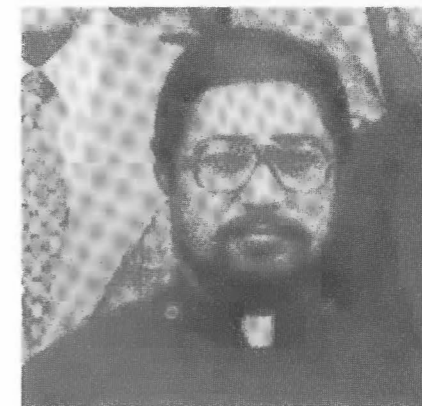
BISHOP HOVSEP GARABEDIAN  
1932-1933



VERY REV. ELISHA H. SIMONIAN  
1935-1965



REV. FR. MAMIGON VOSGANIAN  
1966-1971



VERY REV. ARSHEN AIVAZIAN  
1972-1974



REV. FR. VARTAN MEGHERIAN  
1976-



REV. FATHER  
ARTEN  
ASHJIAN



VERY REV.  
YEGHISHE  
GIZIRIAN



REV. FATHER  
HAIK  
DONIKIAN



VERY REV.  
OSHIN  
NICOLIAN



VERY REV.  
HMAYAG  
INTOYAN

*In Memory Of Hagop Javian, Yacob Maserian,  
Haiganoush Maserian  
MR. AND MRS. GEORGE JAVIAN*



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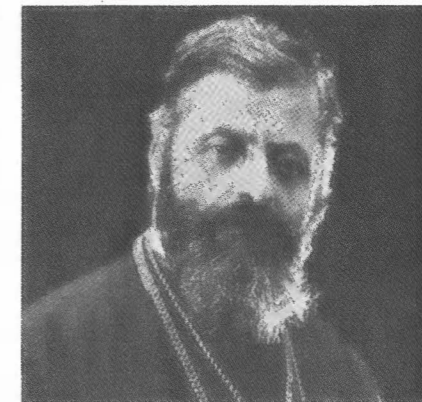
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## Pastors and Assistant Pastors 1929-1979



REV. FR. HAROUTUNE SARKISIAN  
1929-1932



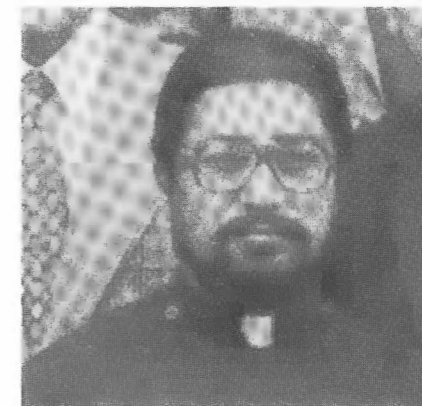
BISHOP HOVSEP GARABEDIAN  
1932-1933



VERY REV. ELISHA H. SIMONIAN  
1935-1965



REV. FR. MAMIGON VOSGANIAN  
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1976-



REV. FATHER  
ARTEN  
ASHJIAN



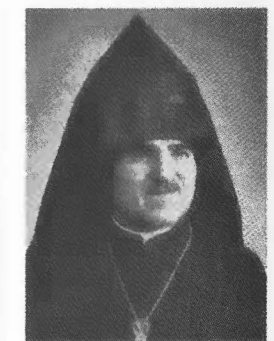
VERY REV.  
YEGHISHE  
GIZIRIAN



REV. FATHER  
HAIK  
DONIKIAN



VERY REV.  
OSHIN  
NICOLIAN



VERY REV.  
HMAYAG  
INTOYAN

MR. AND MRS. EDWARD G. BASHIAN

*In Memory Of Hagop Javian, Yacob Maserian,  
Haiganoush Maserian*  
MR. AND MRS. GEORGE JAVIAN



## Primates of The Diocese 1929-1979



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 Memory Of Mariam Avakian Goodian and  
Dr. Yervant Harrian*  
DR. PAULINE GOODIAN HARRIAN AND  
MARY HARRIAN

## The Parish Councils



PARISH COUNCIL 1979

(Seated) James Haroutunian; Sam Chapootian, Chairman; Rev. Fr. Vartan Megherian; Hagop Uryan; Leo Manuelian; (standing) Vaughan Chambers, Robert Zarookian, Norayr Bedrosian, Yervant Kantar, Charles Garabedian, Albert Barsamian, Nurhan Helvacian.

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. and Mrs. Mardiros Manuelian — Anonymous — Queenie, Craig and Kirk Varjian — Mr. Peter Manuelian — Mr. and Mrs. Leo Manuelian



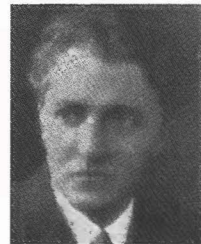
## Parish Council Chairmen



\*Karekin  
Kalenderian  
1929



Hovanes  
Donelian  
1930/1937



Hovhan  
Garabedian  
1931



Garabed  
Boyadjian  
1932



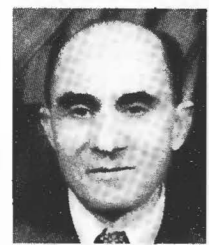
Ardavast  
Kouyoumjian  
1933



Ardashes  
Hampar  
1934



Dr. Yervant  
Harrian  
1935-1936



Kevork  
Danielian  
1938-1939



Levon  
Arslanian  
1940-1947



George  
Bashian  
1948



Harry  
Tatosian  
1949-1950



Edward  
Bashian  
1951-1952



John  
Tembeck  
1953-1954



\*John  
Devejian  
1955-1956



Harry  
Hintlian  
1957-1958



Dr. Zaven  
Daderian  
1959



George  
Sanossian  
1960-1961



Walter  
Kaprielian  
1962



Sam  
Chapootian  
1963-67/1975-79



Shah  
Arslan  
1968



Aram  
Jaboolian  
1969



Harry  
Ekizian  
1970



Joseph  
Kalemkerian  
1971-1972



David  
Davidian  
1973-1974

\*Died in office

## PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Karekin Kalenderian 1929  
 Dr. S. Ayvazian 1929  
 Nishan Maghakian 1929/30/31/36/37  
 David Atamian 1929/40  
 Vosgan Harutunian 1929/30  
 Sarkis H. Demirjian 1929/31/32/35  
 Harutiun Arootian 1929/30  
 Harry Khanpashian 1929/30/31/33/34  
 Hovanes Donelian 1929/30/37  
 Thadius Zarookian 1930  
 Dr. Garabed Yeghiayan 1930  
 Mesrob Abajian 1930/41/42/43/44  
 Michael Zakian 1930  
 Hovan Garabedian 1931  
 Garabed Zatmajian 1931/32  
 Megerditch Topalian 1931/32  
 Sarkis Dokemjian 1931/32/33/38  
 Dikran Chakmakian 1931  
 Kevork Danielian 1931/34/38/39/45/46/47  
 Garabed Boyajian 1932  
 Vartan Azkhanian 1932/33  
 Dickran Tufankjian 1932/33  
 Gamsar Sarafian 1932  
 Asadour Yerganian 1932  
 Ardavast Kouyoumjian 1933  
 Aram Mendikian 1933  
 Vahram Derderian 1933  
 Aramays Pakrodouny 1933/34/37  
 Vahram Manoogian 1933/34/41  
 Ardashes Hampar 1934  
 Krikor H. Kalousdian 1934/35/36  
 Anahid Tufankjian 1934  
 Harutiun Gosdanian 1934/35  
 Anna Abajian 1934  
 Harutiun Harutiunian 1934  
 Dr. Yervant Harrian 1935/36  
 Sumpad Vartabedian 1934/35/36/37/40/41/42/43/44/45/47/48

/49/50/51  
 /52/63/64  
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In Memory Of Father Haig Uryan  
 MR. AND MRS. HAGOP URYAN



Jack Hajinlian	1958/59/60 /61	Shah Arslan	1963/64/65 /66/67/68	Haig Varjian	1969/70
Leo Hagopian	1958/59/60 /61	Murad Mikaelian	1963/64/65 /66/75/76	Leon Boyajian	1970/71
Arthur Bostanjian	1958	Leon Yeganian	1963/64/65	Hratch Tashjian	1970/71/73 /74/75
Vrage Boyajian	1959/60/61 /62	Robert Sarafian	1963/64/65 /72	Harry Gandjian	1970
Kirk Sayian	1959/60/61	George Davidian	1964/65/66 /67/71/72	Albert Barsamian	1970/71/79
Caspar Kasparian	1959/60	Tony Mikaelian	1964/65/66 /67/68/69	Philip Oughourlian	1970/71
Walter Kaprielian	1959/60/61 /62	Sarkis Dadourian	1965	Jack Hachikian	1972/73/74
Sam Chapootian	1960/61/62 /63/64/65 /66/67/74 /75/76/77 /78/79	Vaughn Chambers	1966/67/79	Edward Essayan	1972/73
James Haroutunian	1960/61/62 /63/64/65 /66/67/75 /76/77/78 /79	John Ardouny	1966/67/68 /69/70/71 /72	Norayr Bedrossian	1973/74/75 /76/78/79
Houssig Tashjian	1961/62/63 /64/65	Zaven Demirdjian	1966/67/68 /69/70/73 /74	Zevart Bogosian	1973/74/77 /78
Thomas Kulakjian	1962/63	Charles Moscato	1967/68	Anne Kondrajian	1973/74/75 /76
Menas H. Daderian	1962/63/64 /65/66/67 /72/73	Mirijan Kirian	1967	Leo Manuelian	1974/75/76 /77/78/79
George Guendjoian	1962/63/71 /72	Joseph Kalemkerian	1968/69/71 /72	Dikran Kantar	1974/75/76 /77
		George Mekenian	1968/69	Hagop Uryan	1974/75/76 /77/78/79
		Harry Ekizian	1968/69/70	Aram Gozubuyukian	1975/76/77 /78
		Kourken Ketchian	1969/70	Norair Uryan	1976/77
				Yervant Kantar	1977/78/79
				Charles Garabedian	1977/78/79
				Nurhan Helvacian	1978/79
				Robert Zarookian	1979

## Our Office Staff

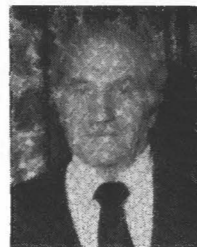
Alice Demirdjian is no stranger among us. She grew up in the church. Being past the ACYOA age group she sang for years in our choir, and she has a fine soprano voice. She joined the League very early and served with humility. She is currently serving as a full time secretary in the church office, a position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

Rupen Gozubuyukoglu is our 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  
Gozubuyukoglu



Vahan Tufenkjian

## 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?

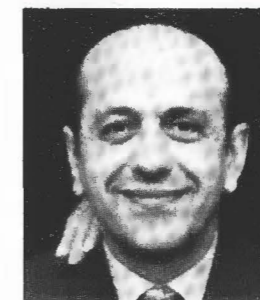
Twenty-two men and women have brought honor to our church since 1929 and others will continue to do so in the future.



Aram Jaboolian



John Tembeck



Shah Arslan

## Diocesan Delegates 1929-1979

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
John Tembeck	1965-1979
Shah Arslan	1969-1979
Joseph Kalemkerian	1973-1976

## Anniversary Committee



Alice Kavookjian  
Chairlady



Sam Chapootian  
Co-Chairman



Setrag Ardouny  
Co-Chairman

*Congratulations On The 50th Anniversary Of Holy Cross Church*  
MR. HAIG AND NEVA KESHISHIAN

*"Best Wishes To Our Holy Cross Church"*  
MR. AND MRS. ARAM KESHISHIAN



## The Zvartnotz

The Zvartnotz is a small four page leaflet. On a few occasions it has expanded to six and eight pages. It is not a profound publication. The first issue was dated September 1, 1929. There have been five mastheads. There are times, too many for comfort, when we run out of news. At such times we write on church conditions which are thought provoking. Immediately we are surrounded by defenders and detractors. We get a verbal tongue lashing or profuse praise. No one takes time to write.

We are proud of our little newsletter. For over 30 years the late Aram Jaboolian was the English sections contributor. All of our pastors have attended to the Armenian section, assisted by the late Krikor Kaloustian. For a number of years Joseph Kalemkerian brought his talents to the weekly. The late Vahan Malkhasian of the Gotchnag Press was a member of our fraternity. These individuals have made this publication possible.



*In Memory Of Sarkis Deckmejian*  
ZAROUHI, DIRAN, BIRJ

*In Memory Of Mary Haroutunian*  
JAMES HAROUTUNIAN

## A Few Firsts

Thumbing through our church record, we came across the following:

The first Divine Liturgy in the old church was celebrated on January 6, 1929.

The first child baptized in our parish was a boy, Edgar Minas Hovsepian, who was born on March 8, 1926, and was baptized on November 21, 1928.

The first wedding joined together Acabie Hovasapian and Krikor Krikorian on February 6, 1929. Mr. Kevork Danielian was the best man.

The first funeral was that of Karekin Kalendarian, the first Parish Council Chairman, a 47-year-old Agentzie, who was buried from the Church on March 24, 1929.

The first issue of the ZVARTNOTZ Vol. 1, No. 1, saw the light of day on September 1, 1929.

The first of many automobiles we have given away during our bazaars was won by an employee of Haik Kavookjian, Harry Kaufman. The number was drawn from the drum by a little girl named Gloria Jaboolian.

The first recordings of the Hymns of the Church of Armenia, on a major scale in the United States, was recorded by our choir in 1946.

The first Divine Liturgy in the new church was celebrated on December 13, 1953.

The oldest parishioner to have passed away was Mr. Haik Kavookjian, who left us at age 102.

Mrs. Zabel Yerganian was the first chairlady of the Ladies' Society.

Architect Manoog Exerjian was our first choir master.

Miss Takoohi Boyajian is recorded as the first Armenian School teacher.

Miss Satenig Deokmejian became the first superintendent of our Sunday School.

Alice Bashian headed the League when it was first organized.

During this half century, we have had over 2000 baptisms, about 925 weddings, and over 1225 deaths in the parish.

*In Memory Of My Husband, Michael Kasparian and Son Caspar M. Kasparian*  
Parents — Khachig and Marine Ghoogasian; Kaspar and Margaret Kasparian;  
Mangui and Rose Cojamanian  
MRS. NELLY KASPARIAN



## Haik Kavookjian



Most of us mere mortals will probably live and die and never fulfill a dream, provided of course, if we ever really have a "dream." One outstanding exception to this was Haik Kavookjian.

He had a dream!

His dream was to see a lasting and beautiful monument in New York City, an Armenian Cathedral rising high and majestically on East 34th Street and Second Avenue. He lived to see his dream come true to the everlasting pride of Armenians in America and throughout the diaspora.

Memories are often all too short and we tend to forget with how much difficulty and sacrifice an ambitious dream such as the erection of St. Vartan Cathedral and the Diocesan Center entailed. Those of us who were privileged to attend an emergency meeting at the New York Athletic Club called by "Papa Haik," will never forget that night. Mr. Kavookjian, a man of action and few words, opened the meeting and declared "tonight you will decide whether we build the cathedral or not." It was an ultimatum, no more talk. It is either yes or no. The answer was a resounding and unanimous "yes." The rest is history, a living history, a dream come true!

Haik Kavookjian was truly in every sense of the word "a son of the Armenian Church." His charities were endless, Istanbul, Jerusalem, Etchmiadzin, The Diocese in America, promising students in academics and the arts received his financial support. We will never know how much of Mr. Haik's good deeds are a result of his good fortune to have married his loving and faithful wife, Alice Kavookjian (nee Kalemkerian). It is believed that it was Alice who directed Haik's interest and dedication to the Armenian Church and the Armenian People. "God moves in mysterious ways His wonders to perform," and perform He did, when He brought these two fine Armenians together.

Mr. Kavookjian must be pleased today as he looks down at Holy Cross to see his dear Alice carrying on his good works for Holy Cross and The Diocese in the fine Kavookjian tradition.

As a final word, "rest easy Mr. Haik." Holy Cross is here to stay!

To my parents, Mihran and Zarouhi Kalemkerian  
Memories of the loved ones/still cast  
their gentle glow/to grace our days  
and light our paths/wherever we  
may go.

ALICE KAVOOKJIAN

## Harry Tatosian

One pictures a giant to be 10 or 15 feet tall, massive hulk of a man. However, in real life we find giants of men who are not 15 feet tall but might even be a few inches over 5 feet. One such modern day giant was our late and beloved Harry Tatosian, every inch a giant of a man.

Mr. Tatosian was a pillar of Holy Cross Church, readily giving of his time and purse. To mention but a few highlights of outstanding deeds and honors that touched this great man are: the construction of St. Thaddeus Church in Amman, Jordan, for which he was presented with a special medal by Archbishop Yeghishe Derderian, Patriarch of Jerusalem; donation of altars for both Holy Cross Church and St. Vartan Cathedral in memory of his daughter Alice Arpine Tatosian; recipient of the St. Gregory Medal, bestowed on him by His Holiness Vasken I in 1955; substantial sums of money donated for the construction of St. Vartan Cathedral; served on the Holy Cross Parish council for 13 years, as Trustee and for many years as Delegate representing his parish to the Diocesan Annual Assemblies. Harry became one of Holy Cross' earliest members in 1933, together with his wife, Aghavni. Mrs. Tatosian served as Women's Guild secretary for 4 years, chairperson 8 years and was bestowed the honor of "Honorary Chairperson." Both Harry and Aghavni served Holy Cross continuously for 37 years.

There is one other facet to Harry's life worth mentioning that many may not be fully aware of, that Harry Tatosian was a genius with his hands. His abilities with his hands were pure mechanical genius. This talent surfaced in his business career when he first embarked into the business of producing the biscuit for ice cream cones. Through his improvements and new designs, he, with his partners, built a highly successful firm "Devonshire," melba toast, cheese tidbits, cones and other items. Though the Armenian public at large were not too familiar with his business innovations, the industry he engaged in regard Harry as a pioneer in the field.



In Loving Memory Of My Father — Onnig Bodossian  
MR. AND MRS. MELIK TOKATLIAN



## A Historical Glance



### The Beginning

It was during the period between 1925-1928 that 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.

With this thought in mind special offering plates were passed to begin a campaign to raise funds. Two thousand dollars were raised by this method. By 1926 both the Parish Council and the membership had voted to move the parish uptown.

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 Decade 1929-1939

The first decade 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.

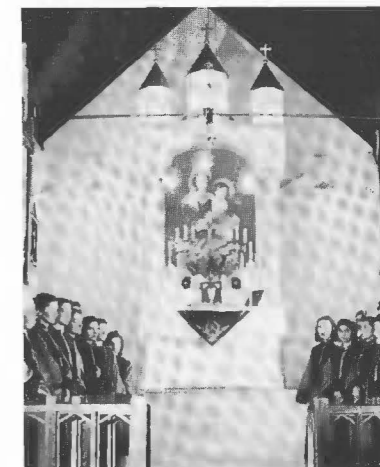
In 1930 the Sunday School was established. The first group of teachers were the following headed by Satenig Doekmejian, Grace Varjabedian, Irene Avedikian, Mary Nercesian, Nvart (Parseghian) Mehta, H. K. Araxie and Rose (Berberian) Snyder. The first class numbered 50 children.

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: Aghavnig Yeganian, Nvart Sagherian, Yeran (Harantz) Kirk, Asdghig Daghararian, Arax (Jaboolian) Takvorian, Hripsime (Maghakian) Mathews. The first choirmaster was Manoug Exerjian.

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 Catholics,



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 1935, through the efforts of the Very Rev. Mampré Calfayan, Haik Kavookjian became affiliated with the parish.

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.

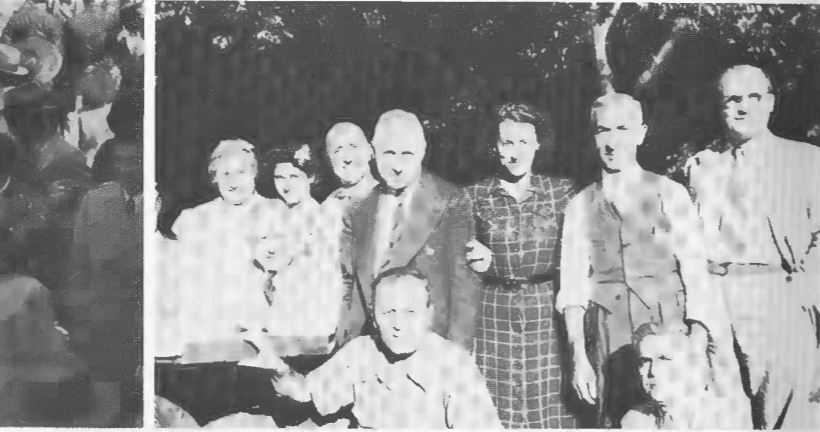
Parish Council Chairmen during this decade were Karekin Kalendarian (who died in office), Hovanes Donelian, Hovhan Garabedian, Garabed Boyadjian, Ardavast Kouyumjian, Ardashes Hampar, Dr. Yervant Harrian, and Kevork Danielian.

During the latter part of the decade, 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.





1935  
BOARD OF HOLY CROSS  
ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH



## The Second Decade 1939-1949

This decade began with the slogan, as it appeared in the 20th Anniversary Booklet, "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. Six of our youths never returned.

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.

Parish Council Chairmen in the 40's were Levon Arslanian, (for eight successive years), George Bashian and Harry Tatosian.



In Loving Memory Of Aram Jaboolian  
RAMELA

In Memory Of Beloved Husband Mardiros Jehanian,  
Brother Sumpad Dingilian  
MRS. NEVART JEHANIAN

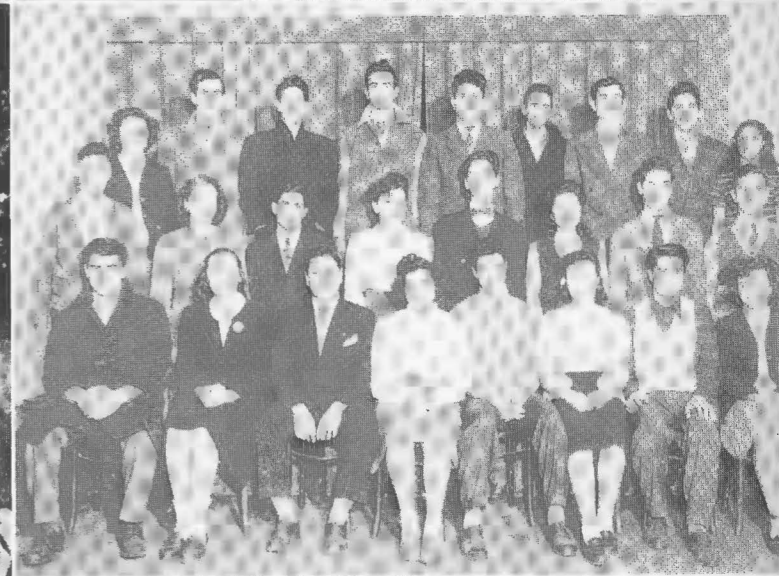
In Memory Of Husband — Haig Barberian  
MARI BARBERIAN

In Memory Of Mariam and Barsam Barsamian  
MARION AND ALBERT BARSAMIAN

MR. AND MRS. KARNIK KABJIAN

"Happy 50th Anniversary"  
HOLY CROSS LEAGUE





*In Loving Memory Of Louise Minasian*  
JERRY MINASIAN

*In Memory Of Davidian and Mouradian Families*  
MR. AND MRS. DAVID DAVIDIAN

STEPHEN AND MARITZA TSAGGOS

*In Memory Of Arto Demirjian*  
MARGARET AND MARYANNE DEMIRJIAN

*In Loving Memory Of Nishan Avakian, Dr. Sonia Avakian, Sirma Balaian*  
MR. AND MRS. PUZANT BALAIAN AND ELIZABETH

MR. AND MRS. LEO HAGOPIAN

*In Memory Of Our Mother, Aznive D. Sewny*  
FROM ALICE D. BOGHOSIAN AND VAHAN D. SEWNY

MARIE NORAREVIAN



## The Third Decade 1949-1959

These were the momentous years. The parish purchased the building adjoining our old rectory. It presently serves as our new 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 assembly approved the report and an architect was retained to make the plans.

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. During the Easter Service the following year, someone was overheard saying, "This church is too small."

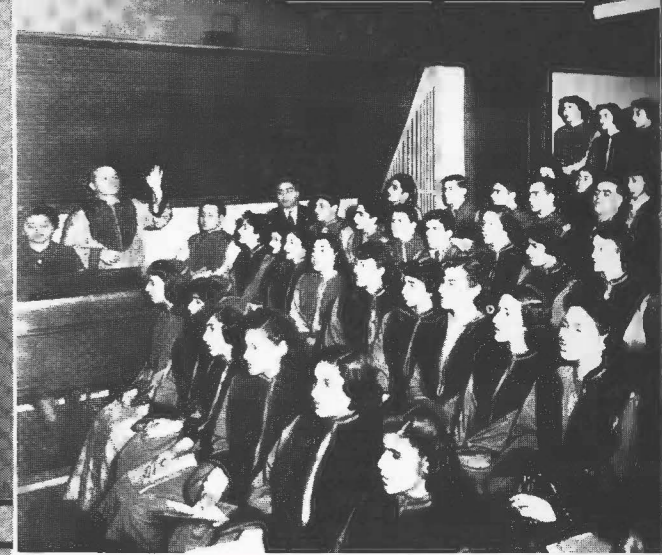
The Rev. Father Haik Donikian was appointed as an assistant to Rev. Simonian in the mid '50's. In 1958 our church was the scene of a double ordination; on that day, the Primate, Archbishop Mampre Calfayan ordained the Very Rev. Vasken Tatoyan and the Very Rev. Oshin Nicolian to the celebrate priesthood.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

During these years the following men were elected Parish Council Chairmen, Edward Bashian, John Tembeck, John Devejian (who died in office), Harry Hintlian, and Dr. Zaven Daderian.

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 at-

tended 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.



MR. AND MRS. SUREN D. FESJIAN  
ARE PLEASED TO SPONSOR THESE PAGES



## The Fourth Decade 1959-1969

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.

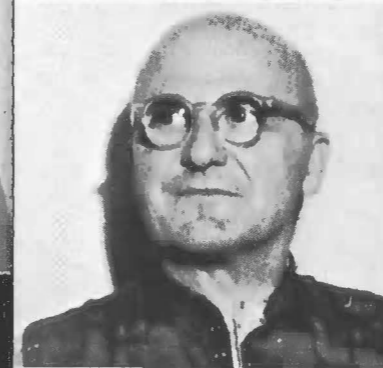
The Rev. Fr. Mamigon Vosganian was appointed as our pastor. A short while later we were happy to welcome Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan to join our family and take up residence in our parish house.

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 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 following served as chairmen of the Parish Council, George Sanossian, Walter Kaprielian, Sam Chapootian, Shah Arslan and Aram Jaboolian.



MR. AND MRS. SOUREN TERZIAN

MR. AND MRS. DIKRAN MISSIRLIAN

MR. AND MRS. S. A. YEGHIAIAN

*Congratulations On Our 50th Anniversary*  
HOLY CROSS LADIES AUXILIARY

MRS. ADOM K. OURIAN

MR. AND MRS. ROBERT SARAFIAN AND FAMILY

*In Memory Of Mihran and Hrakel Shamamian*  
ZERMOT SHAMAMIAN

ANONYMOUS



## The Fifth Decade 1969-1979

This decade 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. 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.

This joy was short lived. Word came from California that Bishop Elisha Simonian had died. The parish sent Father Mamigon Voskanian and Aram Jaboolian to represent the church 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. The 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.

A requiem service was held for the late departed Bishop Simonian, on the first anniversary of his death.

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.

This decade saw the passing of many of our faithful. Father Time is a relentless reaper.

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 audi-

torium, 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 Father Vartan Megherian, our present pastor.

In February, 1977, word came from Florida that one of the elder statesmen, Harry Tatosian, had passed away. Harry and his wife Aghavni were two pillars of our church. They contributed much to the welfare of the parish. His passing was a great loss for us and for the entire Armenian community.

The old patriarch, Haik Kavookjian, passed away in his 102nd year, leaving our community greatly saddened. He seemed so indestructible. His last moments were spent in his office in the Cathedral complex, pondering the financial situation of his pet project.

Nevart Keshishian and her aides began a course in Armenian Cooking in our well equipped kitchen, assuring the community of the continuation of the Armenian cuisine.

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 dinner, which was served by the young members of the parish. Holy Cross is fortunate to have had this outstanding clergyman in our midst for these past few years.

Just as plans for this festive 50th Anniversary were beginning to get under way, the parish was saddened by the death of one of its most dedicated members, Aram Jaboolian. For over forty-five years Aram served Holy Cross in one capacity after another. It was he who was to have prepared this anniversary booklet.

Fifty 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 Loving Memory Of My Beloved One*  
MARY K. BEDROSIAN

MARIE AMERIKIAN

*In Memory Of Onnig Kaishian*  
ASDGHK KAISHIAN

MR. AND MRS. VAHAN NAJARIAN

*In Memory Of Our Beloved Parents*  
Mr. and Mrs. Zacharia H. Avedikian and  
Mr. Mardick L. Baliozian

DR. AND MRS. S. Z. AVEDIKIAN

TOM AND ARPY GALLO

SHAH AND JACKIE ARSLAN

DR. AND MRS. PAUL BEDOUKIAN



## *Kachejian Auditorium*

# SIMON AND LOUSAPER KACHEJIAN AUDITORIUM

As part of the 50th Anniversary celebration of Holy Cross Church, the Parish Council saw fit to name our church auditorium after Simon and Lousaper Kachajian in view of the generosity of the Kachajian family. A special Benefactors Day Dinner and Recognition was held in their honor on Sunday, November 11, 1979, at which a plaque was dedicated over the auditorium doors and a symbolic key given to Mr. and Mrs. Kachajian.

They are worthy candidates for the honor bestowed upon them. For 50 years Lousaper has served the Church, being kitchen chairman for 17 of those years, making 'mas' for the church, instituting the April 24 'madagh' (a tradition begun during the Second World War when her son was serving in the U.S. Navy), and creating with expertise the famous 'pagharch' of Holy Cross. The church was uppermost in her thoughts and Simon was always by her side, encouraging her, helping in his own way, and providing transportation whenever needed. They are both members of Holy Cross and the Pan Sebastia Rehabilitation Union which they serve with the same sense of responsibility and love.

Lousaper was born in 1905 in Gurun and became orphaned as a result of the Armenian massacres of

1915. After spending five years in Marash, she fled to Adana and then Beirut with a group of Guruntzis. Her betrothal was arranged, by means of a photograph, to the brother of Hovagim and Makrouhi who took Lousaper to America with them to marry Simon Kachajian. Simon, born in Sebastia in 1893, had attended the Jesuit School, but came to America in 1920 after suffering through the Armenian holocaust. He made a living as a photo engraver and was able to bring his brother, his sister, and his fiancée to this country. They were married 57 years ago on November 11, 1922, and formed a fine family. They were blessed with three children, Shamiram, George and Marianne, and five grandchildren, Angele Afarian, George and Lisa Kachajian, and Armine and Levon Altiparmakian. The artistic portion of the Benefactors Day Program consisted of performances by members of the family.

Special thanks are in order to George Kachajian, whose princely donation made it possible for our church auditorium to be named, for his parents, The Simon and Lousaper Kachajian Auditorium. We look forward to many years of renewed parish activity there.

PAULINE AND JOHN BABAKIAN

DR. AND MRS. ZAVEN H. DADERIAN

MR. AND MRS. SAMUEL M. MELKON JR.

HELVACIAN FAMILY

## *An Historic Visit*

In 1960, a new era was inaugurated when the Supreme Patriarch and Catholics 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 picture on this page.



## *The Choir and Altar Servers*

The Holy Cross Choir, since its inception, has served our church faithfully. For fifty years, some lean and others not so lean, we always managed to have a group of singers and a leader to sing the Divine Liturgy. We are indebted to the founders of our choir. Looking back now, through our archives we find that the following ladies were instrumental in the formation of our choir, Mrs. Baidzar Arootian, Miss Aghavnig Yegenian, Anahid Daghevorian (now Mrs. A. Tufenkjian), and Yeran Harentz (now Mrs. Yervant Kirk).

The records show that Mr. Manoog Exerjian, the architect of our present church, was the first choir master. He was followed by Dikran Tufenkjian, Florence Matteosian (now Mrs. Mardirosian), Ann Abajian (now Mrs. Bedros Norehad), Mr. Haroutune Shalian, Mr. Aram Charkjian, Nerces Necessian, Deacon Daniel Kochakian, and Hagop Kalfayan.

The year 1946 saw the choir at its greatest height. It was in that year that the Parish Vestrymen, led by Mr. Levon Arslanian, undertook the task of re-

cording the hymns of the church of Armenia. After many months of intensive training the choir gathered in the studios of the R.C.A.-Victor corporation and put on wax the immortal music of the badarak. The first pressing of one thousand albums was sold immediately. A second pressing was made the following year. These albums were sent to all corners of the globe. It was a God-send to those localities where the Church of Armenia did not exist.

Through the years many men have served Holy Cross as deacons and altar servers. Krikor Kalousdian served as the parish's only deacon for many years. Those who have served as acolytes and stole-bearers include Mardiros Keosheian, John Yorghanjian, Levon Alexanian, Levon Boyajian, George Mekenian, Caspar Kasparian, Walter Kaprielian, Robert Touloukian, Joseph Kalemkerian, Jerry Kuyamjian, Steven Sarafian, Onnig Kalemkerian and John Keshishian. Most recently Deacon Krikor Anoushian has been serving at the altar.

MR. AND MRS. ARAM GOZUBUYUKIAN

RUPEN L. SADDLER

*In Memory Of Annig Garabedian*  
CHARLES B. GARABEDIAN

BAIDZAR AND HAROOT H. AROOTIAN



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CHARLES B. GARABEDIAN

B Aidzar AND HARoot H. Arootian



## Construction Of The Church

(excerpts re-printed from the Consecration Book of 1954)

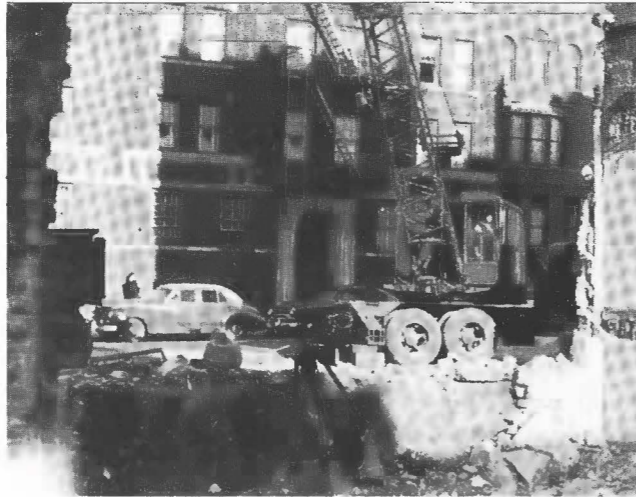
It was during our first service in the old church back in 1929 that we heard the cry to be heard continuously for years thereafter, THIS CHURCH IS TOO SMALL. In the beginning it was too small on festive holidays. Later we began to feel the pinch more often. Year after year Christmas and Easter Sunday had proven an annoying problem. The limited accommodations of the church were woefully inadequate for the many who wished to attend these solemn and joyous services. To alleviate the situation two Masses were tried but this too proved unworkable.

For years we suffered for lack of space and proper facilities. We knew what had to be done but were not in a position to advance any worthwhile project for want of money. Eventually the time came when we thought we might make a few preliminary studies. The war soon came upon us and we relegated to the background all thoughts of expansion. Materials were scarce and expensive. This was not the time to think about a new church, but we could dream, and dream we did.

The year 1949 found us in a financially sound condition. The mortgage on the old church had been paid off and a healthy bank account was beginning to take shape. At last we had reached a point where something definite had to be done. The thousands who attended the bazaar (in Audubon Hall) were living proof that the acquisition or rebuilding of larger and better facilities was the chief concern of the vestrymen and all members.

September 1950, under the title Special Parish Assembly we find, "The purpose of this meeting is to decide on the purchase of the building next door at 582 West 187th Street."

May 1951, "At the annual membership meeting held in January 1951, a resolution was presented, discussed and approved calling upon the Avntabah Marmin (3 man Board of Trustees) to investigate, confer with the proper authorities and explore all possible phases in connection with the erection of a new church or the alteration of the existing buildings, planning and construction costs and to report their findings to the membership. On Sunday, April 29, 1951 a special membership meeting was called to hear the report of this committee.



A few dissenting voices expressed minor fears which were quickly dispelled when a final voice assured them that the businessmen on the committee will protect the finances of the church; the engineers will propose, examine and evaluate the work to be done; the social minded members will see to it that no group or function of the church is omitted from the plans; that all those who vote yes on the motion go out among their friends and publicize the project, act as missionaries, and contribute generously for this glorious undertaking. The motion was put to a vote and unanimously approved. The die was cast.

October 1951, "The architect's plans were almost completed ... To start the ball rolling we sponsored a gala banquet on the night of November 17, 1951 at the Trocadero Ballroom."

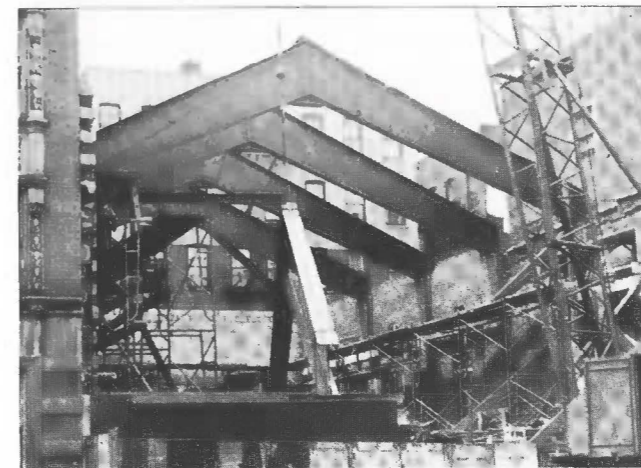
November 1951, News of the banquet. "Those who did not attend missed an evening of good food, short speeches, a fine musical program." Rev. Simonian delivered, what we thought to be, one of his better sermons, a Christian approach to our problem, short and to the point...other speakers implored those present to keep alive the Armenian spirit and to support the Church of Armenia as the one powerful force to keep alive that spirit...Mr. Haik Kavookjian summed up stating that as much as we all need our church, there are times when the church needs us and we must come to its aid with equal fervor."

Tuesday afternoon June 3, 1952 our publicity campaign reached a new high over TV station WABC Channel 7. The Holy Cross League, through its president Mrs. Virginia Hintlian, had arranged to appear on a Club Matinee show. A large group of ladies and children totaling 65, attended this nationally televised show. On the serious side Mr. Aram Jaboolian spoke on the work the building committee was doing toward the proposed construction of the new church.

July 1952, "The architect's plans have been completed, filed and approved by the Dept. of Housing and building. A number of reputable contractors have been invited to submit bids. The bids received to date exceed our estimate of \$150,000. We are waiting patiently for further bids from others."

October 1952, the announcement was made that a contract had been signed for the construction of the new church and parish house. Many technical problems had to be overcome. We had to strive to get as much for our dollar as possible. In the end we had to compromise because of ever rising building costs. Work on the parish house has already begun.

November 2, 1952 the last service in the old church was held. The Most Reverend Archbishop Tiran was the celebrant. The announcements read, "We assemble for the last time to worship in our old building. The following day the Contractor will begin demolishing the church and the rectory building. Beginning Sunday, November 9th, we will worship in the Fort George Chapel, St. Nicholas Avenue and 186th Street.



January 1953, ".....the parish house 90 per cent completed. The old church and parish house had been razed, the site cleared and the excavation for the new church completed. Work on the foundation wall was begun. The structural steel had been fabricated and was ready for shipment. Only weather conditions or an unforeseen strike could slow down the work."

February 1953, "We are happy to announce that the parish house is open. We have moved in a few chairs and tables. The telephone is connected and in the very near future we shall be completely installed."

April 1953, "The one big point which will spell success for our campaign to raise funds to complete the church is the common concern. Everyone is concerned with the progress of the work. Into every square inch of this beloved church is embedded the hope, the prayers and the concern of its beloved children."

September 1953, "There is no question, the Armenians are the unluckiest people in the world. Here in the land of liberty and where the pursuit of happiness is guaranteed to all, we are suffering because we cannot finish a small church in which we wish to worship. It seems ages ago when we broke ground. Today eight months later it is still unfinished. In a legal form of contract there is a clause which states that the contractor shall not be held liable for strikes or acts of God. The month of May was the wettest in the history of New York. So wet that construction stopped completely. A minor strike during the month of July which involved the teamsters union soon spread to the entire building trades. This meant that we could not get materials of construction. Consequently with the use of the remaining materials we had to shut down gradually until about six weeks ago when we shut down completely for lack of materials."

December 1953, ".....Be sure to come to church on December 13th. The Badarak will be sung in our new church." "Our new church glittered from floor to ceiling. It was spacious. There were so many more pews. Archbishop Mampre Calfayan delivered an inspiring sermon. The choir sang the Ekmalian Badarak in a manner worthy of the occasion."

*In Memory Of Vehanoush Barsamian*  
MR. NAZART BARSAMIAN

*In Memory Of My Husband — Dr. Mihran Exerjian, V.E.*  
MRS. VERGINE EXERJIAN

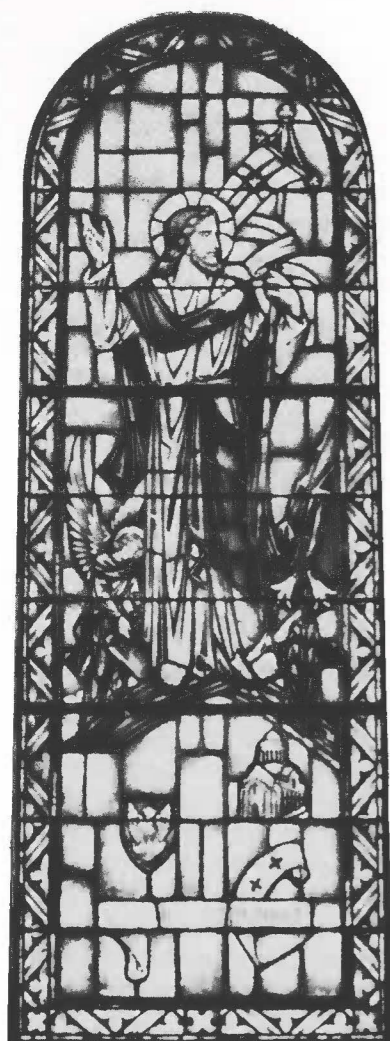
*In Memory Of Lucy Keoleian*  
ALEX SAHAGIAN-EDWARDS, MD.

*In Memory Of Aram Jaboolian*  
POKRA SEERATZ

ZABELLE ARAM



## 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 Pacladoony and was donated by his widow Mrs. Ankine Pacladoony.

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 JABOULIAN	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 ANOUSHIAN	IN MEMORIUM ARAKELIAN FAMILY GUEZELIAN FAMILY	ARTIN BEDOUKIAN 1870-1915
IN MEMORIUM KALOUST, ANNA, ROSEANN KAPIKIAN	HAROUTUNE KELESHIAN 1882-1948	ALBERT GETURIAN 1887-1933	EDWARD KURKJIAN 1887-1933
IN MEMORIUM HEGHINE KOUMJIAN ZUMROOT KURKJIAN	DONATED BY PARSEGH & DIKRANOUHI GARABEDIAN	MICHAEL BOYAJIAN 1888-1945	DONATED BY ONNIK KALEMKERIAN
DONATED BY ARSHAG DERMENJIAN	IN MEMORIUM HAGOP, DIROUHI, LEVON BATZANIAN	DONATED BY MR. & MRS. ONNIG KADEMIAN	DONATED BY ARSHALOODS KALEMKERIAN
MIHRAN VARJABEDIAN 1878-1954	HAGOP HALEBIAN 1891-1944	SARKIS & VARTANOUH HALEBIAN 1884-1947 1898-1950	DONATED BY MR. & MRS. MANDOG BARGHAMIAN
HAROUTYUN NAKASHIAN 1877-1953	IN MEMORIUM HAROUTUNE & ZAROUHI CHAKMARIAN	IN MEMORIUM DIRAN KALAJIAN	IN MEMORIUM DICKRAN & ASTRIK JAMAKORDZIAN
ALICE NAKASHIAN 1908-1928	DONATED BY MR. & MRS. S. M. ARDOUNY	IN MEMORIUM MARDIROUS BADOIAN (CHENKOUSHTZI)	DONATED BY MANOOG DERDERIAN
YERVANT SAHAKIAN 1879-1923	ELLEN DOURIAN ZAKIAN 1897-1927	ANTRANIG DESTEIAN 1872-1951	HOVANNES ISSACOLIAN 1852-1942
JOHN GORGORIAN 1891-1945	DONATED BY MR. & MRS. HATCHIK NASSIB	IN MEMORIUM AUEDIS & MARIAM ATCHOUKIAN	IN MEMORIUM GARABED & FELOR GUEVOJIAN
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.

MR. AND MRS. JOHN TEMBECK

MR. AND MRS. RICHARD HAROUTUNIAN

In Memory Of Avak and Araxy Dakesian  
MR. AND MRS. JERRY TELLITT

In Memory Of Husband Stephan Markarian  
MRS. HANNUM MARKARIAN

FRED W. SNYDER — ROSE BERBERIAN SNYDER AND FAMILY

In Memory Of Mesrob and Vartanoush Abajian,  
Vahe Abajian and Edward Abajian  
ANN NOREHAD

"Congratulations And Best Wishes"  
MR. AND MRS. Y. BERBERIAN

HARRIET AND PETER KALEMKERIAN AND FAMILY



## The Ladies Auxiliary



LADIES AUXILIARY COMMITTEE

Seated: Srpouhie Kantar, Marie NorArevian, chairlady, Rev. Fr. Megherian, Nevart Keshishian. Standing: Vartanoush Yesian, Arax Mirjanian, Azad Banerian, Verkine Kevorkian.

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 Ca-

thedral. 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-present



## Holy Cross League



HOLY CROSS LEAGUE COMMITTEE

(Front Row) Adeline Tegnazian, Marion Barsamian, chairperson, Zavart Bogosian, Margaret Demirdjian. (Second Row) Alice Demirdjian, Malvine Pakradooni, Betty Mikaelian. (Back Row) Dorothy Chapootian, Marie Uryan.

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	1957—Akaby Vartabedian
Alice Bashian	1958—Akaby Vartabedian
1945—Alice Bashian	1959—Akaby Vartabedian
1946—Nevair Shahdanian	1960—Akaby Vartabedian
1947—Esther Tashjian	1961—Mary Azarian
1948—Alice Goulazian	1962—Marguerite Shabazian
1949—Mary Gasparian	1963—Ruth Sanossian
1950—Elizabeth Bostanjian	1964—Sona Marie Assadourian
1951—Victoria Hovasapian	1965—Akaby Vartabedian
1952—Virginia Hintlian	1966—Anne Moscato
1953—Virginia Hintlian	1967—Anne Moscato
1954—Virginia Hintlian	1968—Adeline Tegnazian
1955—Esther Tashjian	1969—Adeline Tegnazian
1956—Marguerite Shabazian	1970 to present—Marion Barsamian



## Sunday School



One of the most important functions our church is faced with is that of molding the young boys and girls into good Christians. The Holy Cross Sunday School has been performing this duty since 1930. Thousands of boys and girls have participated in our Sunday School program, and many of our past students have later served as teachers.

The task of instructing these youngsters is entrusted to our dedicated teachers who perform their duties each and every Sunday without any financial reward. It has been through their dedication that our school has been able to continue through the years.

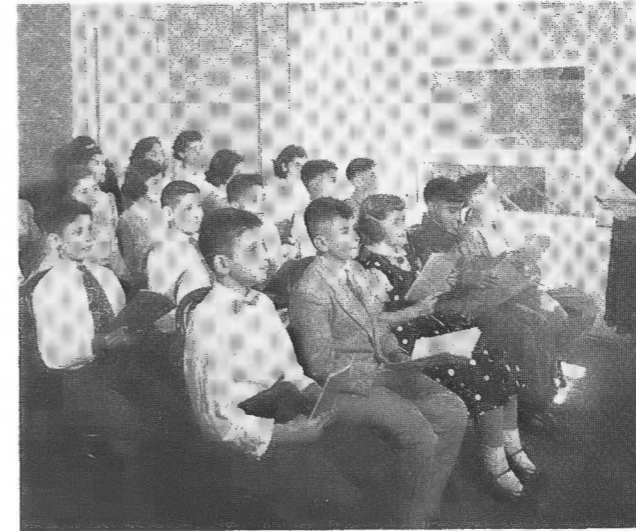
BERJOUHEE AND MENAS H. DADERIAN

MR. AND MRS. GEORGE SANOSSIAN

MR. AND MRS. ISAHAG APRAHAMIAN

VINYL MASTERS INC.

## Armenian School



Our children genuinely want to speak and write their mother tongue. Contrary to the popular opinion that our youngsters are too blasé to bother about Armenian, today at Holy Cross we hold classes every Saturday morning and have close to fifty children attending. Many of these children are the sons and daughters of parents who were born in America or can be practically considered as having been born here. With such a nucleus to work on, our church has made the Armenian School one of its major activities.

To the uninitiated may we say that training in our school is equivalent to an elementary school education. Maybe not in all the allied subjects, but surely in reading and writing. Many of our graduates have married and some of their offsprings occupy the same chairs that their parents did not so long ago.

Credit lines must go to the Ladies Society under whose sponsorship the school is now run, to our present staff, to Miss T. Boyajian, to Mrs. A. Kashmanian, to Mrs. A. Nigoghosian, Mrs. Vartanoush Paboojian, who served from 1937 to the early sixties, and Miss Vart Tarpinian, all former teachers. And last but not least to a group of energetic ladies who first instigated the idea in 1927, even before our church doors were open.

*Compliments For The 50th Anniversary*  
MR. AND MRS. HRANT G. BALEKJIAN

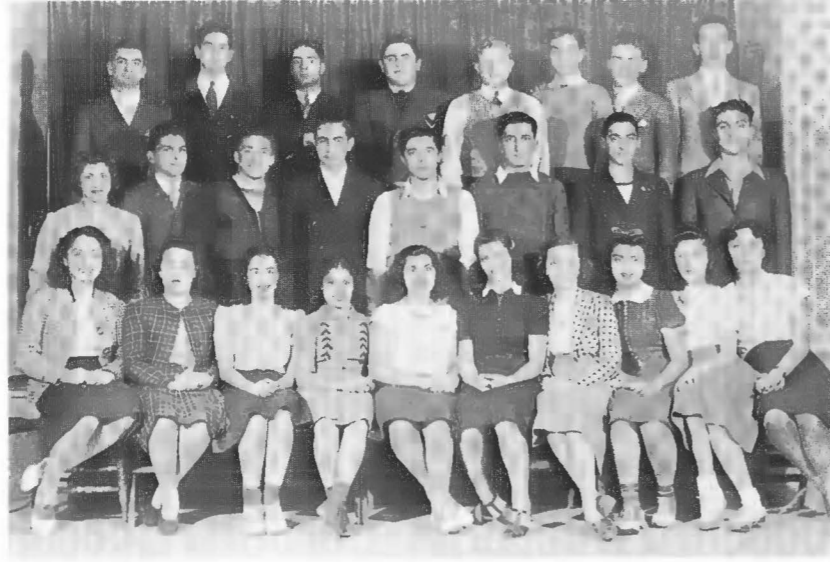
*In Memory Of Arshaloos Kalemkerian*  
ONNIG B. KALEMKERIAN

MR. AND MRS. MICHAEL DONIGIAN

MRS. MAKROUHI HOUSEPIAN



## The Youth Groups



During the mid-1930's Rev. Simonian organized two youth groups, the Holy Cross Juniors (14-18 yrs.) and the Holy Cross Seniors (18 and up). For almost ten years these two organizations provided an outlet for the youth of the parish.

In 1946 the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America (ACYOA) was organized by the Primate, Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan and the Holy Cross Chapter was formed later that year, with Lee Bedigian as chairman.

However, it was not until the mid-1950's that the ACYOA came into its own. During the years 1954-1959 the group had more than seventy members. Under the leadership of Peter Kalemkerian, Edward Fehmian, Joseph Kalemkerian, Victor Kevorkian and George Mekenian the group proceeded to organize annual variety shows, dances and lectures. In 1958 it was recognized as the most successful group in the Diocese.

Members of the ACYOA have graduated to serve the parish as members of the parish council, Sunday school teachers and superintendents, Diocesan delegates, choir members and altar servers.

*In Memory Of Satenig and Vahan Antreassian*  
MR. AND MRS. JACK ANTREASSIAN

WALTER AND JULIA KAPRIELIAN

*In Memory Of Haig and Mannig Kojassarian*  
MR. AND MRS. H. TIMOURIAN

MR. AND MRS. DIKRAN KANTAR

## 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.



*In Memory Of My Beloved Husband Hatchik Simonian*  
MRS. DORIS SIMONIAN

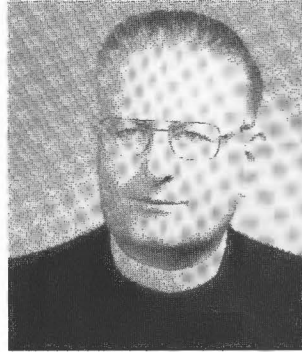
DR. AND MRS. EDGAR M. HOUSEPIAN

*In Memory Of My Husband Mardiros Kevorkian*  
VERKIN KEVORKIAN

MR. AND MRS. YERVANT KANTAR



## Recollections



Shortly after my ordination to the priesthood in 1948, from the fall of 1948 to the first quarter of 1951 it was my good fortune to serve as assistant to the pastor of the Holy Cross Church of Washington Heights, while I continued my theological studies at the General Theological Seminary and gained experience in the parish ministry under the supervision of Father Elisha Simonian.

Holy Cross Church was bursting at its seams in those years. The proud choir, trained and conducted by Nerces Necessian, filled the balcony every Sunday. The small hall proved inadequate to accommodate the large crowds who came to enjoy and support the three day annual bazaar. The bazaar committee had to rent larger halls and worried about the safe transportation of food, utensils and merchandise to these places.

Twice during my ministry at Holy Cross Church Easter Divine Liturgy was scheduled in such a way that the pastor and the assistant priest officiated at two services three hours apart.

Holy Cross Church, the only parish in the Diocese in those days that employed a full time American born secretary, boasted close to nine hundred adult members. It was a proud center of social and educational activities, with its thriving Armenian language school, Sunday School, ACYOA seniors, two women's organizations, and a Board of Trustees whose members were filled with an admirable esprit de corps. It was my privilege to work closely with three distinguished board chairmen, namely, George Bashian, Haroutune Tatosian, and Edward Bashian.

May God rest the souls of my mentors and colleagues at Holy Cross Church in the late 1940's, namely, the Rt. Rev. Bishop Elisha Simonian, Messrs. Levon Arslanian, Kevork Danielian, Edward Jaboolian, Aram Jaboolian, Haroutune Tatosian, Deacon Krikor Kaloustian, Mrs. Nevert Malian, and benefactor Haik Kavookjian who made the expansion of the physical edifice of the Holy Cross Church possible by purchasing and donating to the community the four-story building adjacent to the then parish house in 1951. I am happy that I had a small share in the negotiations for the purchase of the property, by going to see the seller with the offer of an option in the name of the Holy Cross Church.

With its many accomplishments during the past 50 years as trainer of clergy and lay leaders who now serve in other parishes, Holy Cross Church of Washington Heights deserves a secure future.

Rev. Father Arten Ashjian  
New York, N.Y.

With deep joy, I greet the jubilee of the Holy Cross Church. I have words of congratulation and blessings to all the benefactors, who, with their moral and financial sacrifices, founded and enriched this beautiful edifice, under whose wings the Armenians of Washington Heights received their spiritual strength and life.

Worthy of esteem indeed are the Parish Councils and the Committee members and teachers of the Armenian and Sunday Schools of our church, the inimitable ladies of the Women's Guild, Holy Cross League, and all the Auxiliary organizations who serve so ardently for the embellishment of the church.

On the occasion of this Golden Anniversary, we wish that the Holy Cross Church remains as resplendent as always and become a legacy for succeeding generations.

Rev. Father Mamigon Vosgianian  
Woodside, N.Y.



My experiences at Holy Cross Church of Armenia were most gratifying. During my tenure between October 1951 to February 1953 my associations were meaningful and constructive.

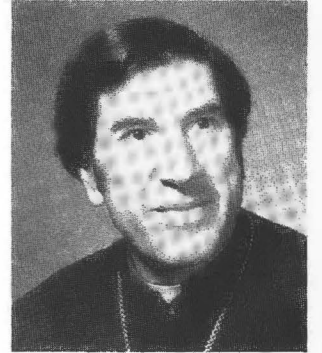
This was my first pastoral assignment after leaving the monastery of Antelias. The contrast was overwhelming. It was a privilege to serve in the position of Assistant Pastor to Bishop Yeghishe Simonian of blessed memory. In my tenure, I witnessed the transition of life at Holy Cross from the original edifice to the construction of the present church.

Most impressive was the high degree of intellectuality in this community. The choir was of outstanding quality; the youth activities were well organized and the totality of the organizational life was unique.

Although the locale has now changed, as have all communities changed, the loyalties of the membership at Holy Cross remained unchanged. This reflects the true meaning of church association.

On this occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Holy Cross Church of Armenia, I cordially salute all the faithful and dedicated members wishing them all God's blessings and heavenly benedictions.

Very Rev. Yeghishe Gizirian  
Worcester, Mass.



My sincere congratulations to the Parishioners of Holy Cross Armenian Church on the auspicious occasion of the 50th Anniversary of your Parish.

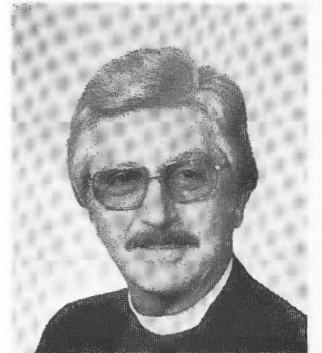
Your Church will always have special significance to me because it was 22 years ago at Holy Cross that I first began my Pastoral duties. I was most fortunate to have served as Assistant Pastor with the Very Rev. Yeghishe Simonian whose experience and guidance continue to be most meaningful to me.

Also, I recall with fond memories my close association with our dear friend, Mr. Haik Kavookjian—benefactor of Holy Cross and my Godfather, whose name I feel proud and honored to have carried since my ordination to the Priesthood. It saddens me that this great man is not present to share in this happy celebration. However, his true spirit of Christian love for his fellow man remains as an inspiration to all of us whose lives he touched.

In closing, please accept my sincere best wishes for many more years of continued success in all your endeavors on behalf of your beloved Holy Cross Parish.

May God Bless you all!

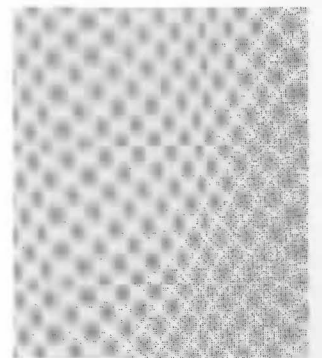
Rev. Father Haik Donikian  
Providence, Rhode Island



Without any hesitation, I can say that the period of two years for which I served at Holy Cross was most gratifying for my life. I have the best memories from those days when the life of the community was ebullient and full of enthusiasm, because of the ardent activities of the members. It was an exceptional honor for me during my tenure to welcome His Holiness Vazken I, the Catholicos of all Armenians, who celebrated the Divine Liturgy in our church on July 24, 1960.

On the occasion of the church's 50th Anniversary, it is my heartfelt wish and prayer that the same vital spirit, which has endured through long years of piety and sacrifice in the Community of the Holy Cross Church, remain with you for the benefit of your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, abundant with Armenian spirit and heavenly graces.

Bishop Hmayag Intoyan  
Miami, Florida







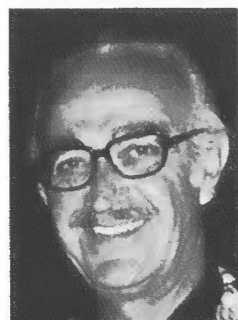
conducted by its composer, Alan Hovaness.

Of more immediate interest to Holy Cross was a Special Parish Meeting held on April 29, to discuss the feasibility of building a new Church. The motion was carried unanimously. To quote Aram Jaboolian, "With God's Help and your Generous contributions, we shall succeed." How prophetic were those words!

On Sunday, November 2, 1952, the final services were held in the old building. Demolishing the church and Rectory was begun on Monday, November 3rd.

On this occasion, I would like to extend my heartiest thanks to my co-parishioners of some 28 years who had vision and courage to put into fruition a concept which in fact was a forerunner and model for those of us who have since left our beloved Holy Cross but have taken with us the experiences and pleasant memories which we will always cherish.

Edward Bashian  
Tenafly, N.J.



During the period when the decision was made to tear down the original church building and erect a new edifice, I was both privileged and taxed to have been chairman of the Parish Council following in the footsteps of the incomparable Ed Bashian. It was a tough act to follow.

This was when Holy Cross was the largest and perhaps the most vibrant church in the metropolitan

New York region. All church organizations were very much alive and active, the Dignantz Miutune, Holy Cross League, Sunday School, with an enrollment of over 250 children, ACYOA, a choir, and a large Armenian School that held classes on Saturdays.

All of these organizations required planning as to how and where they would meet and function. And of course, there was an on-going fund raising campaign, spear-headed by Mr. Haik Kavookjian.

We faced these problems head on, and we surmounted them. Holy Cross flourished. Our beloved church, Soorp Khatch, is a unique church blessed with as fine a parish as one could wish for and what has transpired is now in the past and is history. A great and rewarding personal experience were and are my many years at Holy Cross.

John Tembeck  
Yonkers, N.Y.



The year that I served as parish council chairman, 1959, was one that was full of activity, and brings back very fond memories. This was the year that the mortgage of the church was burned, and Holy Cross had the distinct honor of being the first parish to comply with the Primate's request to turn over the deed of our church (completely paid up) to the Diocese.

During my tenure, several significant changes were made at Holy Cross. New appliances for the kitchen, including an automatic

dishwasher, were purchased, a gas heating system was installed in the auditorium, and a stage was built under the direction of the late Kegam Boghosian. At the 30th anniversary banquet, we surprised Fr. Simonian with a new car, a gift from some parishioners.

New York Holy Cross Church has been a starting point for many future parishes. It served as an example, guide, and training ground for many parish council members, some of whom still serve in their new communities. Others have served as Sunday School teachers, choir members and altar servers in their new parishes, after having received their initial experience at Holy Cross. This parish has given much to the New York community, and many people count themselves fortunate for having been part of this church at one time.

Dr. Zaven H. Daderian  
Manhasset, N.Y.



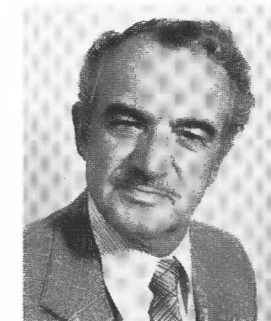
During my two years as chairman of the parish council, many things come to mind.

Some that stand out, was the first single long playing record of the hymns of the Armenian Church as sung by the Holy Cross Church Choir. I also recall having the pleasure of being witness as Mr. Haik Kavookjian received an encyclical (gontag) and the cross of St. Gregory from His Holiness Vasken I, Catholicos of all Armenians. Also, the occasion of the cornerstone laying of the Diocesan

House, first of the three edifices making up the Cathedral project, put us on the road of the realization of a long cherished dream—of an Armenian Cathedral in America.

It was indeed an honor and a rewarding experience having served the Holy Cross Church under the guidance of Bishop Elisha Simonian.

Harry Hintlian  
Flushing, N.Y.

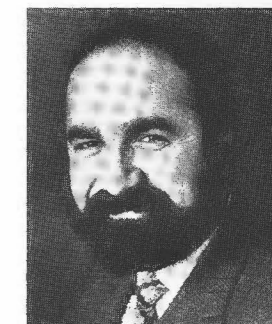


During my term of service as chairman of the parish council of Holy Cross, many important events took place, but the most noteworthy and perhaps one of the most historic occasions in the life of Holy Cross was the visit of His Holiness, Catholicos Vasken I. Never before, had a Catholicos set foot on American soil. During that first visit, the only Armenian church in which he celebrated the Divine Liturgy was our own Holy Cross.

On that great day every square inch of space in the church and auditorium was put to use. The councilmen and a few extra recruits did a herculean job and maintained incredible control of the situation. More than 700 people attended services, and after services, the Vehapar enjoyed dinner in our auditorium with 350 Holy Cross parishioners and Primate Archbishop Sion and Archbishop Tiran.

I am therefore, understandably and justifiably proud of having been involved in this momentous day in the glorious history of our Church.

George Sanossian  
Yonkers, N.Y.



When contacted to write a few lines about my experiences and reminiscences as Parish Council Chairman of the Holy Cross Church of Armenia, I found myself at a loss, for I could not separate those specific years from all the other ones I spent at the building on 187th Street.

I grew up at the Church with Hayre Soorp Simonian who always said, "character is caught and not taught." My life there was filled with people who taught by their actions and not with their words.

Today I realize how fortunate I was, for as perhaps the youngest parish council chairman in Holy Cross history, I was inadvertently taught by many whose countless hours and unbounding devotion made that piece of land in Washington Heights so special.

There is a warmth in that building that is not made from the heat rising from the furnace, or the kitchen, or the candles, but from the very soul of the people who have worked in it.

During my tenure, I knew floods, burglaries, broken windows, scaffolding and chandelier problems, rained-on-picnics and sell-out bazaars. Arguments and double parking, palm shortages and candle sharpening ... the memories all come with smiles.

There is a church on 187th Street between St. Nicholas and Audubon Avenue. Its neighborhood is not so nice now. There are locked iron gates on its entrance and every so often, spray paint on its walls. There is often talk about selling it, moving it, or building a new one.

During the dark days of 1934 our parish council was most helpful by cooperating with the office of the District Attorney during the investigation of the murder of Archbishop Tourian

In an effort to locate a new clergyman, Aramais Pakradouny, Harry Constant and I traveled to Bridgeport, Conn. to interview a young candidate.

Upon hearing our offer, the Rev. Elisha Simonian accepted and came to begin his thirty year pastorate at Holy Cross.

It was also during this period that we welcomed Mr. Haik Kavookjian to our parish.

Ardashess Hampar  
New York City



1951 marked the 1500th Anniversary of the Holy War of Vartan. The Holy Cross Church, along with the rest of the Diocese, participated in celebrating this turning point of Christian History. The high points were a special mass held at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine on May 27th and in an unusual secular celebration, the performance of a new orchestral work in Carnegie Hall entitled "St. Vartan Symphony"



All of those thoughts may someday come true. I only wish we could take the love that is in those walls and transplant it into the other churches around us so our children can know what we have known, for it was special.

It is truly a Church.

Walter Kaprielian  
Bellerose, N.Y.



*The first half of 1968 was devoted almost exclusively to the "once in a lifetime" spectacle of the Consecration of St. Vartan Cathedral and the Vehapar's visit.*

*Plaudits to our John Tembeck, chairman of the Cathedral Consecration Committee, as well as to the group of Holy Cross members who worked hand in hand with the New York City Police for three days to provide for the Vehapar's personal security, and to the many hundreds of our parishioners who thronged the airport, and in addition, through their generous contributions, more than fulfilled Holy Cross' \$150,000 quota for the Cathedral.*

*Some recollections from 1968 ... pouring rain on June 2nd, day of the picnic. Chairman Souren Mekenian's tears added to the dampness ... Walking around bare-footed in the church auditorium in order to locate water leaks ... Our sexton, Vahan slipping on the ice with the Bazaar Cake and Menas Daderian trying to rescue it ... Bazaar Chairman, Aram Jaboolian insuring success of Bazaar by going three days at the microphone, non-stop ...*

Shah Arslan  
Great Neck, N.Y.



*my lot as well, as Parish Council Chairman.*

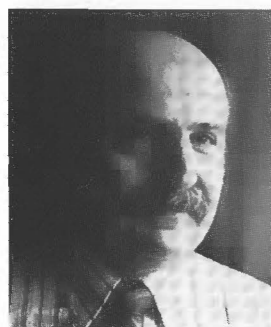
*However, those memories are fleeting; what stands out in my mind is the love, the warmth and the caring ... the PEOPLE who were the Holy Cross Church.*

Joseph Kalemkerian  
Paramus, N.J.

A Fiftieth Anniversary is truly a milestone in anyone's life. All members and friends of Holy Cross can share the joy of this occasion knowing that without their personal commitments and hard work our Parish could never have survived these many years.

Personally, I am grateful to all those who helped make my term of office as Parish Council Chairman a meaningful one. I pray that Holy Cross continues serving our community for many more years to come and that those that follow do so with the same devotion and spirit as those who preceded them.

Harry Ekizian  
Westwood, N.J.



*The Holy Cross Church has a magnetism about it which draws out the noblest part of us all. Somehow because we were Holy Crossers we were able to rise to all kinds of occasions, and meet all kinds of problems. The same water leaks, the same broken windows and the same financial woes which plagued my predecessors and successors were*



It was an exciting and challenging experience for me to serve our church and Armenian community as a member of the parish council in the early fifties. In 1973 I was elected to the parish council and served as chairman. Father Arshen Aivazian was the parish priest at the time. There were hard times ahead of us. The main problem was balancing the budget. With everyone's help, dedication, desire to serve our people, and Mr. Kavookjian's never-ending assistance, we were able to overcome.

The Armenian School and Sunday School received prime attention from Father Aivazian. Many church activities, including well-organized banquets, luncheons and picnics, are worth remembering. I congratulate all parishioners of Holy Cross, both past and present, on our 50th anniversary, and pray to God that our house of worship continues to give us spiritual and cultural guidance. May love and peace prevail among our brothers and sisters.

David Davidian  
Yonkers, N.Y.

## "Karasoonk" at Holy Cross



"Karasoonk" is a significant period in the life of a newly ordained clergyman. It is a time (normally lasting forty days, hence the name Karasoonk) of prayer and penance, introspection and meditation, study and practice of worship in the quiet of serenity and solitude. It is a time of spiritual recharge immediately after ordination and just before beginning public ministry.

My "karasoonk" at Holy Cross provided me with the experience of practicing what it was intended for. In addition, I will always remember the warmth and consideration of the pastor and the parish council, the elderly women's prayers and devout wishes, the "hokejashes" and hospitality of the parishioners, the daily worship and frequent discussions with Tiran Srpazan, the Spanish music and the loud conversations in the neighborhood, and, in general, the "homey" atmosphere of what makes Holy Cross what it is.

My experience there had a special significance to me, because several of my charter parishioners have their roots at Holy Cross. I was glad I became part of the bond between the old Holy Cross and the new, the pastor of my "Karasoonk" church and the new Church of Westchester.

I shall always remember my "Karasoonk" at Holy Cross with a spiritual nostalgia and yearning. I shall continue to remember its congregation in my prayers and hold a warm feeling of gratitude and joy for Holy Cross.

Rev. Fr. Karekin Kasparian  
Crestwood, N.Y.

*On the occasion of 50th Anniversary of Holy Cross Armenian Church, I extend my personal regards and best wishes to all faithful members.*

*Following my ordination to priesthood, I spent 40 days as the guest of Holy Cross Armenian Church. These 40 days was the time for me for fasting and preparation for my ministry.*

*I have many unforgettable memories of Holy Cross. A warm hospitality extended to me from my spiritual advisor, Fr. Mamigon Voskanian down to church secretary Alice Demirdjian. How about those ladies who fed me for 40 days with love and devotion.*

*On July 28, I celebrated my First Divine Liturgy in Holy Cross Armenian Church. I offered to all nice people of Holy Cross so that their church will ever flourish.*

*These fond memories always will stay with me as long as Holy Cross exists. I pray God's protection be with each member of Holy Cross Armenian Church as they celebrate their 50th Golden Anniversary.*

Rev. Patee Metjian  
Fairlawn, N.J.



Following my ordination, Hayr Arshen Aivazian drove me to Holy Cross Church where I spent my next 42 days praying, meditating, reading scripture and getting ready to begin my ministry, in "karasoonk."

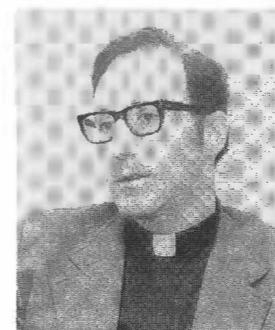
All my meals were in accordance with the strict abstinence our Church observes during Lent. With the cooperation of the many parishioners of Holy Cross, Fr. Arshen arranged to have my meals brought by families to be a Hokejash for their deceased family members. Thus, prayers were offered on behalf of these departed souls, and their names were remembered by me during my first Badarak.

During my Karasoonk, it was especially helpful to have Tiran Surpazan available to answer my many questions. I enjoyed drinking tea with Alice Demirjian and the sexton Vahan. On Saturday mornings I heard the voices of youngsters running to their Armenian classes.

My Karasoonk at Holy Cross was a valuable experience which made me feel closer to our Savior Jesus Christ. I learned a great deal, and made new friends at Holy Cross as well.

My congratulations to all the members of Holy Cross Church on their 50th Anniversary, wishing that Holy Cross Church may continue to serve her Savior faithfully.

Rev. Fr. Kevork Arakelian  
Binghamton, N.Y.





CONGRATULATIONS TO HOLY CROSS  
ON ITS GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

ASTRA AVEDISSIAN  
MR. AND MRS. HARRY HINTLIAN  
MR. AND MRS. BERCH A. KHACHDOURIAN  
PARSEK K. PARSEKIAN  
MRS. NEVARTE C. JEFFERSON  
DR. AND MRS. NIKIT ORDJANIAN  
ANONYMOUS  
MR. AND MRS. SAMUEL PROODIAN  
MAISON SAPHO DJAMDJIAN  
MR. AND MRS. ZAREH SAHAGIAN  
VAHAN TUFANKJIAN  
REV. AND MRS. ARTEN ASHJIAN  
SONA AHARONYAN AND SONS  
VAHE AND ARAXE ARKELL  
ARAXE BOYAJIAN  
MRS. MARY BARGAMIAN  
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AZAD BANERIAN  
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MRS. YERANOUIH BARSAMIAN  
VARTITER DARSON  
MR. AND MRS. RICHARD DEMIRJIAN, ROXANNE AND GEORGE  
ALICE AND DENISE DEMIRDJIAN  
ZAROUHY KAZANJIAN  
MR. AND MRS. GEORGE MEKENIAN  
MR. SOUREN MEKENIAN  
In Memory Of Nazareth and Jeneve Mikaelian and Garabed Alamian  
TONY AND BETTY MIKAELIAN  
In Memory Of My Wife Adrene Geldadian  
MR. JOHN GELDADIAN  
In Memory Of Parents Vartouhi and Asadour Mirjanian and  
Brothers Armen and Aram  
MISS ARAX MIRJANIAN  
MRS. OSKAN HAROOTUNIAN  
SUZANNE AND HARRY EKIZIAN  
MR. AND MRS. HAIG TUKDARIAN

ANAHIT HAYRABET  
MURAD AND AGNES MIKAELIAN  
DR. ARTHUR YESIAN  
TONY AND BETTY MIKAELIAN  
MRS. ARPINE JEVAHIRJIAN  
ARSHALUYS KEBABJIAN AND FAMILY  
EDWARD KASSAKIAN  
ANONYMOUS  
ROSE AND BERGE TATIAN  
MRS. VARTOUHI YESIAN  
MRS. VARTOUHI SEVAJIAN — In Memory Of Haig Sevajian  
MRS. PEARL MEDZIAN  
ST. GREGORY ILLUMINATOR OF NEW YORK CITY  
JOHN, CERAN, JUNE, MARK KASARJIAN  
MR. AND MRS. ARA D. JILAJIAN  
ADELINE, STEPHANIE AND RANDY TEGNAZIAN  
HADJY TAKOUSHIAN  
In Memory Of My Mother and Father  
ANNE KONDRAJIAN  
MR. AND MRS. RUPEN GOZUBUYUKOGLU  
ANNE AND BOB ZAROOKIAN  
“In Loving Memory Of My Loved Ones”  
ANAHID TASHJIAN AND FAMILY  
MR. AND MRS. CHARLES MOSCATO  
MR. AND MRS. ARA L. YARDUM  
AIDA AND MAX NARGIL  
“In Loving Memory Of Our Beloved Parents”  
AGHAZAR AND ANOUSH ABAJIAN  
JACK AND RICHARD ABAJIAN AND ROSE SHEGIRIAN  
MRS. LOUSIN H. CHOLAKIAN  
MRS. SATENIG V. CHIMCHIRIAN  
SINORIK SAFERT  
MRS. N. ASSATOUROFF  
*Best Wishes!*  
MR. AND MRS. HRATCH TASHJIAN  
MALVINE PAKRADOONI



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The success of this booklet is due, in large measure, to the efforts of the late Aram Jaboolian. It was he who did the initial work; who laid the groundwork upon which we built.

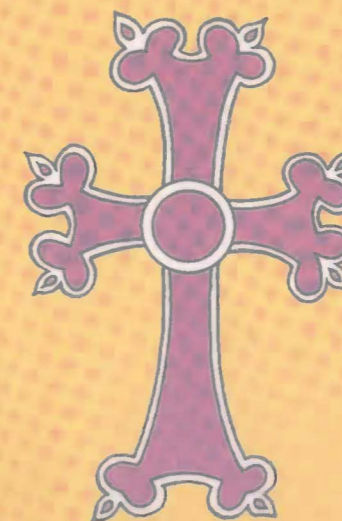
Aram Jaboolian died while preparing this booklet. He was the unsung hero in our midst for many years, producing the anniversary booklets for the 20th, 25th, 30th and 40th celebrations. All of us owe him a debt of gratitude and appreciation.

We thank all members of the 50th Anniversary Committee, led by Mrs. Alice Kavookjian, honorary chairlady, and Messrs. Setrag Ardouny and Sam Chapootian, co-chairmen. The Committee members are too numerous to mention; each did a superb job insuring the success of this booklet and this day.

Special thanks go to the inimitable Alice Demirdjian, without whose help above and beyond the call of duty this booklet would not have been printed.

Thanks also to Lucy Dadourian and Janet Yeghissian for typing, and finally my appreciation to Louise Kalemkerian, who assisted, wrote, edited, typed and gave the encouragement to complete this task.

The Back Cover is Sponsored  
*In Memory Of Haik Kavookjian*  
MR. AND MRS. ALEX MANOOGIAN



## 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՛ զոհութեամբ փառաւորել զքեզ ընդ Հօր եւ ընդ Հոգւոյդ Սրբոյ, այժմ եւ միշտ եւ յաւիտեանս յաւիտենից: Ամէն:*

*Dedicated to the memory of*  
Harry G. Tatosian  
Alice Arpine Tatosian



