

*25<sup>th</sup> St. Leon  
Anniversary  
in Fair Lawn*

*December 16, 1990*







HIS EMINENCE BISHOP KHAJAG BARSAMIAN  
Primate, Armenian Church of America—Eastern Diocese



# ԱՌԱՋՆՈՐԴՈՒԹԻՒՆ ՀԱՅՈՑ

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

## PRIMATE'S MESSAGE

We rejoice with the parish priest, officials, members and friends of the St. Leon Armenian Church on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the consecration of the newly constructed church in Fair Lawn, New Jersey.

In 1934, when a small group of dedicated Armenian men and women living in and near south Paterson put together \$6,000 and purchased a modest church on Bloomfield Avenue, none of them dreamed that their children and grandchildren would someday enjoy the facilities of a large church building, with its detached social hall, spacious picnic area, all set in a more desirable environment.

We bless the memory of the founders in this parish. It was their wish that the humble house of prayer purchased with so much sacrifice during the Depression be named after St. Leon, the patriotic Armenian priest who inspired St. Vartan Mamigonian, commander of the loyalist troops resisting the Persian oppressor. In 1941, the south Paterson church was consecrated and named St. Leon by the Diocesan Primate, Archbishop Karekin Hovsepian, later Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia in Lebanon.

The new St. Leon Church created opportunities for inner growth and outreach. Easily accessible by automobile and bus, it attracted more families and visitors. Communication with the Diocesan Center, St. Vartan Cathedral, sister parishes and Armenian institutions in northern New Jersey improved. The Abajian Hall built during the 1980's brought new vigor and increased the dimensions of church activities. Leaders of the new St. Leon Church have distinguished themselves during the past 25 years on the Diocesan and national level by their valuable services and philanthropies.

For a Church whose history is as old as Christianity, 25 years, is a short span of time. As we congratulate each other at this important milestone, let us also resolve to strive to attain higher goals, to pass on to the next generation of parishioners a St. Leon Church which continues to serve God and where appreciation and awareness of our cultural identity as Armenians stays alive.

With blessings,

*Bp. K. Barsamian*

Bishop Khajag Barsamian  
Primate

New York City  
November 1990



HIS EMINENCE BISHOP KHAJAG BARSAMIAN  
Primate, Armenian Church of America—Eastern Diocese



# Մեր Եկեղեցու 25-ամյակի Գերբնական Վերադարձ

Տ. Արշեն Քինյ. Այվազյան,  
Հոգևոր Հովիտ

The Rev. Father Arshen Aivazian  
Parish Priest

## A TIME FOR RENEWED COMMITMENTS

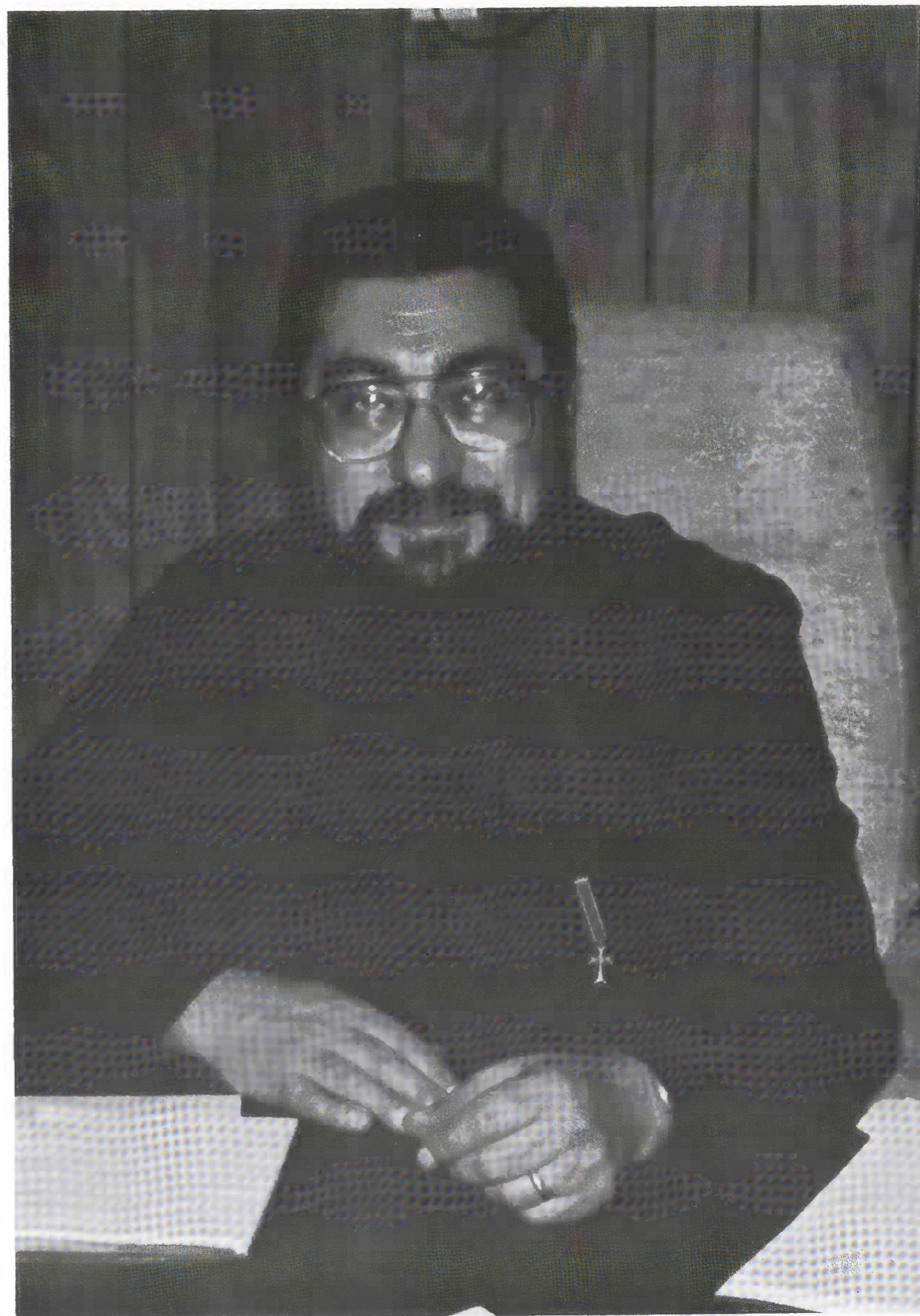
The 25th anniversary of the construction of St. Leon's Church in Fair Lawn is indeed a remarkable milestone in the life of the parish not so much because of the length of time but because of the growth the parish has experienced and accomplished. By the end of the decade of the 50's, the small parish established in Paterson in 1933 had already experienced enough growth, both in size and mission, to warrant a relocation to larger facilities providing enough space for further physical growth in the future. After its relocation and consecration in Fair Lawn in 1965 came the crowning accomplishment of the construction of the Community Center in 1980. None of these achievements would have been possible without a common vision, a common commitment and inspiring leadership. Today, as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of St. Leon's in Fair Lawn, we acknowledge the outstanding contribution of a few of the many individuals in the growth and development of the parish. They are most deserving of this honor and we thank God both for their contributions and dedication and the opportunity for us to show them our appreciation.

An anniversary such as this is more than just an opportunity to look nostalgically at the past and feel proud of the road traveled thus far. It is rather an opportune time to look at the road ahead, to rekindle the vision, to recommit ourselves and to assume our share of responsibility in carrying the eternal mission of the Armenian Church. The growth of our parish is an ongoing reality, and our calling is to maintain a clear awareness of our growing needs, both personal and communal, and to respond to them. History, the events and accomplishments of the past, makes us feel good about ourselves because in and through it we share a community life of care and concern for one another, a mutual commitment to be present to one another as a Church through our faith in Jesus Christ our Lord. Ultimately, our success as a parish will be measured not so much by the grandeur of our facilities but by how we use them to enhance and promote our Christian-Armenian heritage. Everything we do must bear witness to our Christian faith, our commitment to live and experience the Gospel in the Armenian Church, and to share it with all members of our ever growing parish community.

I hope and pray that the Holy Spirit, who guided and inspired us in the past, will continue to work within us and will lead us into greater accomplishments for the glory of His Holy Name.

*Fr. Arshen Aivazian*

Fr. Arshen Aivazian  
Feast of All Saints  
November 3, 1990



The Rev. Father Arshen Aivazian  
Parish Priest



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

# Proclamation

**WHEREAS, the St. Leon Armenian Church of Fair Lawn, New Jersey will commemorate its twenty-fifth anniversary on December 16, 1990; and**

**WHEREAS, St. Leon Armenian Church has been a source of spiritual inspiration to the citizens of Bergen County for the past twenty-five years; and**

**WHEREAS, many lives have been touched, over the years, by the many acts of kindness and goodwill provided to the community by the Church; and**

**WHEREAS, St. Leon Armenian Church, under the devoted leadership and guidance of its faithful leaders, will continue to flourish in its spiritual sanctity for years to come;**

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIM FLORIO, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby recognize and commend**

## ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH

**of Fair Lawn, New Jersey and I offer my warmest wishes to all as you celebrate this special anniversary.**

**GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this seventeenth day of October and in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and ninety and of the Independence of the United States, the two hundred and fifteenth.**

*J. Florio*  
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR

*Joan Haberle*  
JOAN HABERLE, SECRETARY OF STATE

# New Jersey General Assembly



STATE HOUSE, TRENTON, N. J.

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION  
By Assemblymen HAYTAIAN, FELICE, and RUSSO

WHEREAS, The Fair Lawn Parish of the St. Leon Armenian Church in Bergen County is being honored upon the occasion of the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of its founding; and,

WHEREAS, The Parish has continued, since its earliest days as a newly formed congregation and through many seasons of change, to provide nurture and support for all within its charge; and,

WHEREAS, Throughout its distinguished history, the St. Leon Armenian Church has been guided by loving and faithful leaders whose concern for and commitment to their parishioners and community have set an example for all to emulate; and,

WHEREAS, The completion of two and one-half decades of steadfast service bears witness to the devotion and faithfulness of many dedicated persons, both religious and lay, who have carried out the mission of the St. Leon Armenian Church; now, therefore,

*Be It Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

That this House hereby joins with all members, leaders and friends of the Fair Lawn Parish of the St. Leon Armenian Church as they recall with pride and gratitude the many milestones of the past twenty-five years while preparing in faith for the blessings and challenges of the journey yet ahead, and extends the sincere best wishes of the members of this House for continued vigor and success in fulfilling their spiritual goals; and,

*Be It Further Resolved,* That a duly authenticated copy of this resolution, signed by the Speaker and attested by the Clerk, be transmitted to the St. Leon Armenian Church.

Attest:

*Joseph V. Doria, Jr.*  
JOSEPH V. DORIA, JR.  
Speaker of the General Assembly

GAIL MARSH SAXER  
Clerk of the General Assembly



# Մեր Եւոնոքեանց Սյաատանեայց Կեդրոցի

Տ. Արշէն Քինյ. Այվազեան,  
Հոգեւոր Հովիտ

The Rev. Father Arshen Aivazian  
Parish Priest

Dear Friends:

Twenty-five years of progress and service to fill the needs of our Armenian community service relocating in Fair Lawn! It seems like only yesterday.

How many of us have come and gone during this time? One can only imagine the countless members of our Parish who have served in their particular way to help make St. Leon what it is today.

We hope and pray that our St. Leon parish will enter the next decade and century armed with the same commitment, dedication and perseverance as her people have portrayed in the past.

God keep our parish strong and steadfast!

*Charles Pinajian*  
Charles Pinajian  
Chairman Parish Council

*"Give your service willingly, doing it for the Lord rather than men. You know that each one, whether slave or free, will be repaid by the Lord for whatever good He does."*

*Ephesians 6:7-8*



### Parish Council

*Front row (l. to r.):* Arda Kiljian, Recording Secretary; John Demirdjian, Treasurer; Charles Pinajian, Chairman; Rev. Arshen Aivazian, President; S. Rex Kachigian, Vice Chairman; Knarig Khatchadurian, Corresponding Secretary. *Second row:* Araxy Moumdjian, Berdj Feredjian, Edward Pechdimaldji. *Third row:* Tom Ashbahian, Assistant Treasurer; Jan Royland, Martin Kapoian. *Missing from photo:* Paul Pinajian, Ted Takvorian.



### Diocesan Delegates

Rev. Arshen Aivazian, Sarkis Soultanian, Ruth Bedevian, S. Rex Kachigian.

**ST. LEON PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMEN**

- Paul Hachigian.....1965  
 James Boyajian.....1966  
 Paul Hachigian.....1967  
 Alfred A. Voskian.....1968-1969  
 Charles Pinajian.....1970  
 Zaven Dadekian.....1971-1972  
 Jon Najarian.....1973  
 S. Rex Kachigian.....1974  
 E. George Dabagian.....1975  
 Jon Najarian.....1976  
 Martin Kapoian.....1977  
 Charles Pinajian.....1978-1980  
 Sarkis Soultanian.....1981-1983  
 Arthur Ohnikian.....1984  
 John Nakashian.....1985  
 Mirjan Kirian.....1986  
 Arthur Ohnikian.....1987-1988  
 Charles Pinajian.....1989-1990





## THE CROSS

by Archbishop Elishe Tourian

If you have the zeal of worship,  
A pair of wings will He give you:  
So you may be able to spread,  
His Power divine, upon the earth.

If you're able to have visions,  
Revelations will He give you:  
So you may be able to show,  
His Will divine, upon the earth.

If you utter with Him on the mount,  
Godly accent will He give you:  
So you may be able to speak,  
His Holy Word, upon the earth.

If exalted you look at Him,  
A fiery tongue may He give you:  
So you may be able to glide,  
His forceful Spark upon the earth.

If you enter His shining clouds,  
Heavenly Spark will He give you:  
So you may be able to flash,  
His full Glory, upon the earth.

If you fall upon His kindly breast,  
A hearty song will He give you:  
So you may be able to chant,  
His immense Grace, upon the earth.

If to His wounds you go to kiss,  
A new life will He give you:  
So you're able to animate,  
His lively Breath, upon the earth.

But if buried under His shadow,  
A beam of ray will He give you:  
Against nothing, to Hope unclosed,  
The only ray, upon the earth.

And the Power, the Will and Word,  
That Spark, Vengeance, Glory alone,  
That Grace and Breath and entire Hope,  
Is but the Cross given to you.

## ST. LEON HONOREES

**E. George and Lucy Dabagian  
Zaven Marootian  
Harotune Nakashian  
Andrew Tilbian**



**E. GEORGE DABAGIAN**

A member of St. Leon Armenian Church for over 45 years, George was the Chairman of the Sons and Daughters of St. Leon Armenian Church, a young adults' group formed by the late Archbishop Mampre Calfayan. He became a member of the Parish Council and later served as Chairman. He was the General Chairman of the Building Committee for the construction of the newly built St. Leon Armenian Church of Fair Lawn, 25 years ago.

He co-chaired, with his wife, the banquet for Rev. Carnig Hallajian on the 10th anniversary of his ordination. He co-chaired the Fund Raising Committee for the construction of the Community Center of the church.

At the Armenian Diocese, he was President of the Pro Musica and Arts Committee, a committee member for the consecration of St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral, of the 100th birthday celebration for the late Haik Kavookjian, of the One World Festival and other projects.

He is a member of the Diocesan Board of Trustees, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Armenian Church Endowment Fund, a former member of the Board of Directors of St. Nersess Seminary, a committee member of the visit of His Holiness, Vasken I in 1960 and 1987.

He was a member of the Diocesan Pacesetter's Committee and Fund Raising Committee for St. Vartan Cathedral mortgage. Also the Archbishop's Fund campaign committee. George was Chairman of the 25th anniversary banquet for our former Primate, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian. He is presently the Honorary Chairman of the St. Leon Armenian Church Renovation Committee.



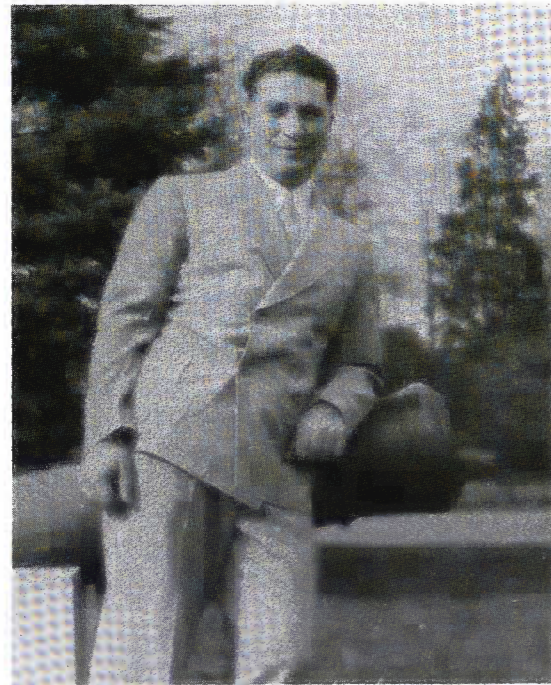
**LUCY DABAGIAN**

It was at the age of 15 that Lucy became the organist in the Armenian Church of Newark, now St. Mary Armenian Church in Livingston. Having studied accompanying and two piano music, she accompanied vocalists and musicians for various church luncheons and banquets, locally and out of state. She has been the organist for special services at St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral; also for the Women's Saints Day services since 1973. She was organist and choir director at St. Leon Armenian Church for over 25 years. Although she is not regularly on duty, she is "on call" always. In her very early years, she attended and graduated Armenian language school, thus had great interest in teaching music and accompanying in St. Leon's Armenian School.

Her love and deep feeling of Armenian liturgical music inspired her to join members of the Armenian church choirs to go to Etchmiadzin, by invitation from His Holiness, Vasken I for further study and participation in the Etchmiadzin choir.

Lucy has been a former Chairman of St. Leon's Women Guild. She has chaired many social and fund raising functions and worked on committees as well. She has been Co-chairman and committee member for functions at the Armenian Diocese. She was a member of the Primate's Women's Advisory Council from 1973-1985. In 1986, she became Chairman of the Ad-Hock Committee of the Women's Guilds to form the Women's Guild Central Council. After its formation, she became the Chairman for 2 years and then served on the Council for 1 year. She has been a member of St. Leon Church for 42 years.

She has received the St. Vartan Award from our former Primate, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian.



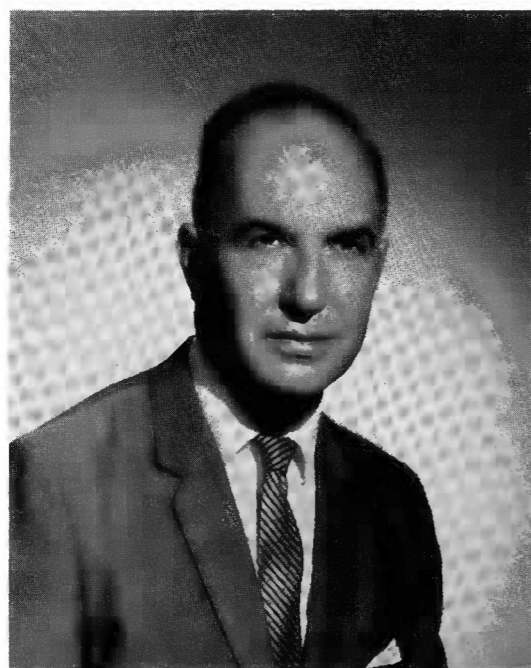
**ZAVEN MAROOTIAN**

The late Zaven Marootian was Memorials Chairman of the Building Committee for the construction of St. Leon Armenian Church in Fair Lawn. He served on the Parish Council for many years and was Chairman of the Parish Council from 1950 to 1953 and again in 1957. In 1960, Zaven was a Diocesan Delegate and in 1964 he was Chairman of St. Leon's Mr. and Mrs. Club. Anne Marootian said of her late husband, "God rest his soul. He always told me, GET INVOLVED. In 1940, when we moved from New York to Paterson, Zaven became active in St. Leon's right away. At that time, he was probably the youngest parish council member and was always involved. He never stopped serving his church, but was a firm believer in stepping down and nurturing the young people to take over as he had been nurtured. Zaven was always proud of the young people."



**HAROTUNE NAKASHIAN**

The late Harotune Nakashian is being honored today for taking the initiative to purchase the land on Saddle River Road in Fair Lawn where St. Leon was constructed and consecrated in 1965. He is credited with possessing the vision to see its potential, providing enough property for later expansion. The parish was enabled to construct the community center behind the church edifice in 1980 because of this vision. The Nakashian family involved itself in the tremendous job of decision making when the parish contemplated the move from Paterson. John Nakashian, Harotune's son and a long-standing member, said of his parents, "It was my mother's devotion to the church that inspired my father." John Jr., John's son (4 years old at the time), became Godfather of our church at the consecration in memory of his grandfather Harotune, who did not live to see the memorable day.



**ANDREW S. TILBIAN**

Andrew Tilbian began his church life at St. Leon's as a teenager. He joined the Sons and Daughters organization, one similar to the present ACYOA.

This was short-lived as he was inducted into the U.S. Navy as an Ensign in 1942 and returned four years later as a Lt. Commander, having served in the Pacific Theater where he received the Purple Heart. Upon his return, he married Dovie (nee Dikijian) and became active in St. Leon's along with his parents, Mary and Aram Tilbian.

Andrew served his beloved church in many ways and wore many hats . . . including Treasurer, Vice-Chairman and Chairman of the Parish Council. He served as Diocesan Delegate for many years.

He — along with Charles Pinajian — instituted the envelope system for collection of dues at St. Leon. During his chairmanship, the plans were made for the move from Paterson to Fair Lawn and he was deeply involved in the planning and building of the new church. He formed the Building Committee for the Fair Lawn church and served on it from beginning to end. Andrew was a Godfather of the Church and one of the Co-signers of the mortgage.

He was a member of the Mr. and Mrs. Club and the Men's Club which was formed at the time of his Parish Council Chairmanship. He was Toastmaster at the banquets and affairs which St. Leon had.

Andrew loved his church deeply and served in every possible capacity, even to the extent of doing plumbing and cleaning in the Paterson Church. On Sunday mornings, he was always there to greet the parishioners and guests with a warm smile and a bit of humor.

However, in 1967, his health failed and he was no longer able to be active. We are certain that he is happy with, and proud of, the progress of St. Leon Armenian Church.

Look to this day,  
For it is life,  
The very life of life.  
In its brief course lie all  
the realities and verities of existence,  
The bliss of growth,  
The splendor of action,  
The glory of power—

For yesterday is but a dream,  
And tomorrow is only a vision,  
But today, well lived,  
Makes every yesterday a dream  
of happiness,  
And every tomorrow a vision of hope.

Look well, therefore, to this day.

Sanskrit Proverb

### HISTORIC DATES—ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH

April 10, 1965	Blessing of the Foundation Stones by Archbishop Sion Manoogian, Primate.	April 29, 1979	Celebration of Fiftieth Anniversary of Women's Guild.
September 19, 1965	Consecration of St. Leon Armenian Church, Fair Lawn, by Archbishop Sion Manoogian, Primate.	November 1979	Girls' Basketball Team organized.
January 1966	Men's Club organized.	May 3, 1980	Tenth Anniversary Celebration of the Ordination of Rev. Patee Metjian, Pastor.
November 1969	Boys' Basketball Team organized.	November 9, 1980	Ground Blessing of Community Center and Ordination of Deacons by Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate.
June 28, 1970	Tenth Anniversary Celebration of the Ordination of Rev. Carnig Hallajian, Pastor.	November 15, 1981	Dedication of Community Center and Educational Wing by Archbishop Torkom Manoogian.
January 23, 1972	Ordination of Deacons and Acolytes by Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate.	March 19, 1983	1st Spiritual Renewal Conference, "Living the Divine Liturgy", sponsored by the Diocese and hosted by St. Leon.
December 1, 1973	Twenty-fifth Anniversary Celebration of the Ordination of Rev. Arten Ashjian, Pastor.	May 3-6, 1984	82nd Diocesan Assembly hosted by St. Leon.
February 9, 1975	Burning of the mortgage.	September 16, 1984	Ordination of Deacon and seven Acolytes: Blessing of the Veils of six girls by Archbishop Torkom Manoogian.
October 5, 1975	Tenth Anniversary Celebration of the Consecration of Fair Lawn Church.	November 11, 1984	50th Anniversary of St. Leon parish, His Beatitude, Archbishop Shnork Kaloustian, Patriarch of Istanbul, guest celebrant.
November 19, 1975	Founding of Senior Citizen Center.	November 6, 1988	60th Anniversary of St. Leon Women's Guild.
June 26, 1976	Annual Vacation Bible School established.	November, 1989	Men's Basketball Team reorganized
April 17, 1977	Ordination of seventeen acolytes by Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate.	December 16, 1990	25th Anniversary of the Construction and Consecration of St. Leon Armenian Church in Fair Lawn.

## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CONSECRATION

The ritual origins of the consecration of a Christian Church go as far back as Hebrew times, to the consecration of Solomon's temple.

Consecration is "the act by which a person or thing is separated from common use and permanently dedicated to the service of God." Besides its permanence, a consecration is distinguished from simple blessing by its greater solemnity.

The word church (ecclesia) originally referred to the group of people who came together in order to celebrate the Divine Liturgy. It is only by extension that it came to mean the building in which people congregated for that purpose. Naturally the first Christians did not have special buildings for their religious services. They gathered together in private houses. It was only after the end of the third century that church buildings began to be erected. Thus our own Mother Church of Holy Etchmiadzin has the distinction of being one of the very first buildings in the world built especially as a church.

The essential part of the consecration of an Armenian Church is first the anointment of the Altar, then of the two pillars of the Apse, then of the center of the front of the Ambon (where the lectern is placed), then, consecutively, of the western, northern, and southern sides of the church, and finally of the Main Door. All but the Altar, Ambon, and Main Door are consecrated in the name of the twelve Apostles and of St. Paul. The anointing is done with Holy Chrism or muron and incense is used throughout the service. Holy Chrism is the symbol of grace or divine presence. Incense is the symbol of praise.

In a truly Christian community all buildings and all things should serve God. An Armenian church is a building where our Lord Himself is bodily present because the Divine Liturgy is celebrated there at least every Sunday. For this reason it has a very special function. It should be set apart. It should be consecrated.

Originally the word "church" did not apply to a building. It applied to the people who came together in order to celebrate the Divine Liturgy. To this day it keeps that meaning.



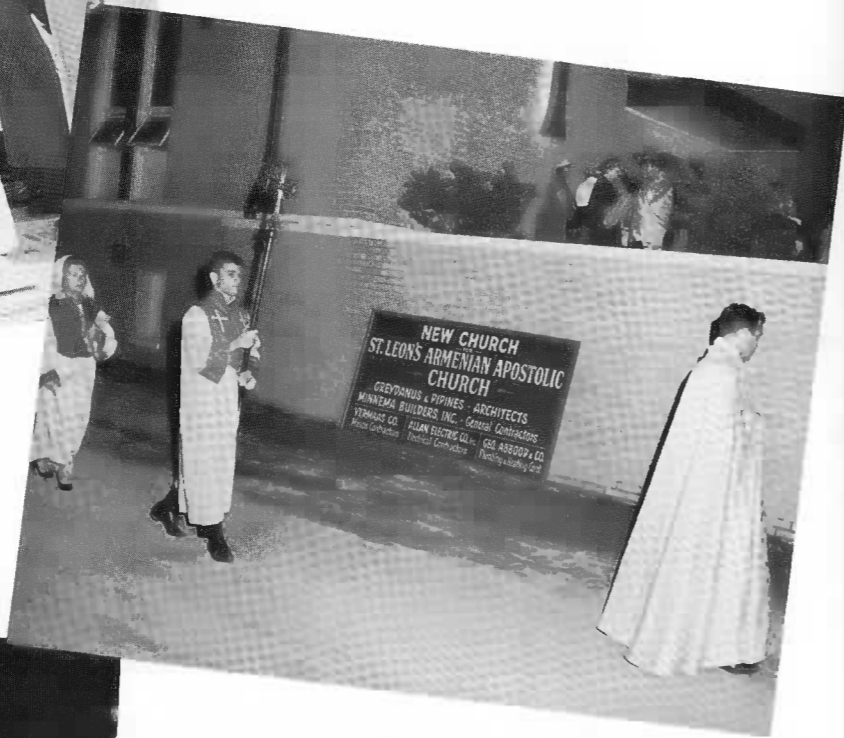
## GODFATHERS OF NEWLY CONSECRATED CHURCH

On September 19, 1965 John H. Nakashian, Jr. became the main Godfather of St. Leon Armenian Church, in memory of his grandfather, Harry H. Nakashian, who was instrumental in purchasing the beautiful grounds on Saddle River Road, Fair Lawn, New Jersey.

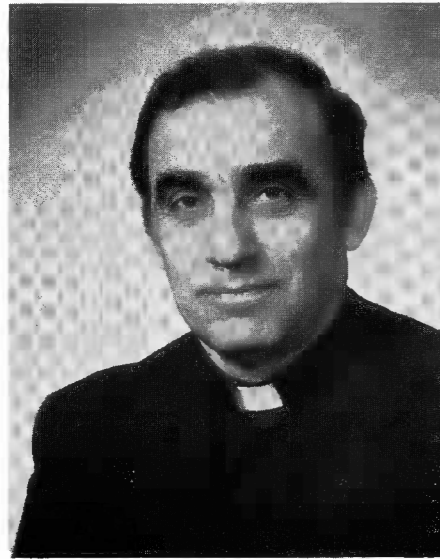
The Godfathers listed below represent the Apostles of Christ according to the sacred tradition of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

James Boyajian	John H. Nakashian
E. George Dabagian	Mihran Noorigian
Paul Hachigian	Charles Pinajian
David Kalamian	Harry Sohigian
Richard Karamian	Martin Tarzian
George Marootian	Andrew S. Tilbian
Aram Mazoujian	Leon Yazmajian

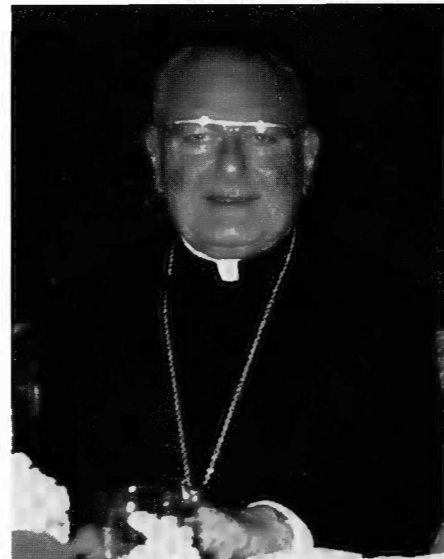
Many of these men are with us on this joyous occasion. Those who are not here today are in our thoughts and hearts. God bless all of them!



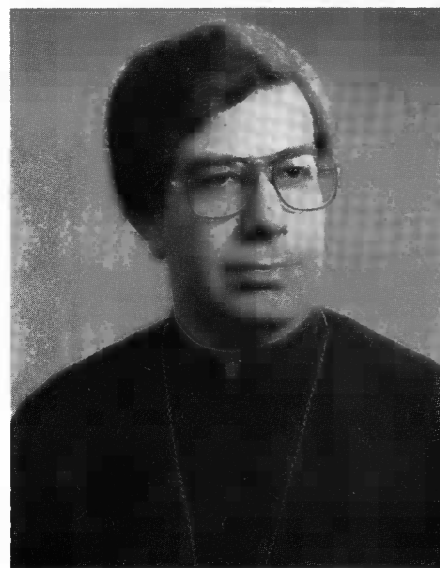
PASTORS OF ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH  
IN FAIR LAWN



Reverend Fr. Carnig Hallajian  
1965-1972



Reverend Fr. Arten Ashjian  
1972-1975



Reverend Fr. Patee Metjian  
1975-1985

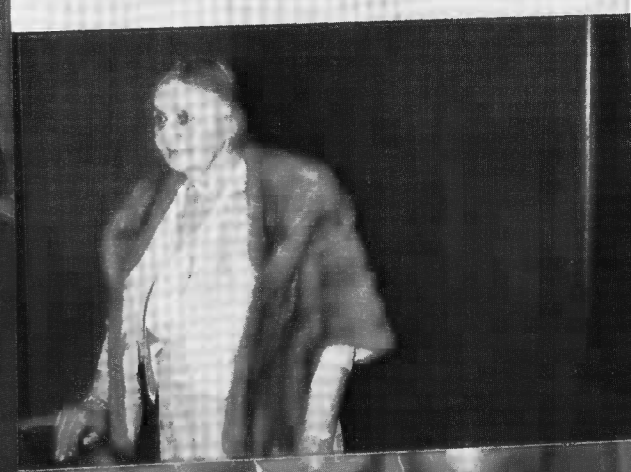


Reverend Fr. Arshen Aivazian  
1985-Present

*“I should like to see any power in this world destroy this race, this small tribe of unimportant people, whose history is ended, whose wars have been fought and lost, whose structures have crumbled, whose literature is unread, whose music is unheard and whose prayers are no more answered. Go ahead, destroy this race! . . . Destroy Armenia! See if you can do it. Send them from their homes into the desert. Let them have neither bread nor water. Burn their homes and churches. Then, see if they will not laugh again, see if they will not sing and pray again. For when two of them meet anywhere in the world, see if they will not create a New Armenia.”*

*William Saroyan*  
1935





**25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE**

Father Arshen Aivazian.....Honorary Chairman  
 S. Rex Kachigian.....Chairman  
 Anne Kachigian.....Treasurer  
 Agnes Voskian.....Secretary  
 Ruth Bedevian.....Publicity  
 Dawn Hourdajian.....Publicity  
 Grace Pinajian.....Dinner/Decorations  
 Dovie Tilbian.....Reservation  
 Alfred Voskian.....Audio  
 Ara Hourdajian.....Video  
 John Voskian.....Facilities  
 Charles Pinajian.....Program  
 Sarkis Soutanian.....Program  
 Thomas Ashbahian.....Ad Sponsor Chairman

**Booklet Committee**

Margaret Ajamian.....Chairman  
 Linda Ohnikian                      Glenn Ajamian  
 Andrea Tilbian-Halejian              Vicken Jessourian  
 Taline Jessourian                      Rose Kirian

**P R O G R A M**

PROCESSIONAL

NATIONAL ANTHEM.....Sung by Assembly  
*Piano Accompanist—Armen Donelian*

INVOCATION.....His Eminence Bishop Khajag Barsamian

TOAST.....S. Rex Kachigian  
*Banquet Chairman*

DINNER

WELCOME.....S. Rex Kachigian

REMARKS.....Sarkis Soutanian  
*Master of Ceremonies*

GREETINGS.....The Honorable Robert Gordon  
*Mayor of Fair Lawn*

GREETINGS.....Nickols Felice  
*The Honorable Assemblyman*

ARTIST.....Armen Donelian  
*Jazz Pianist and Composer*

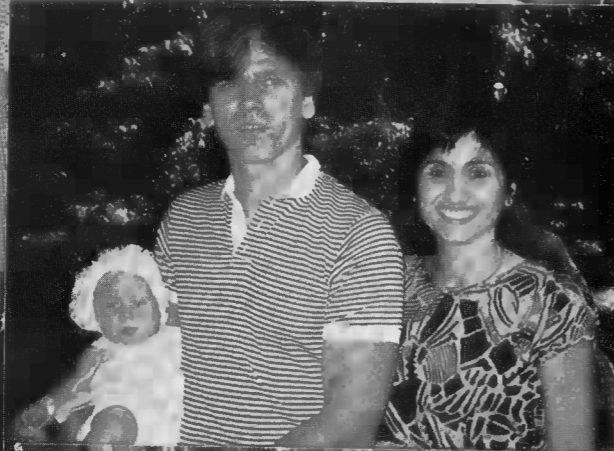
REMARKS.....Charles Pinajian  
*Chairman, Parish Council*

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Zaven Marootian  
 Harotune Nakashian  
 Andrew Tilbian  
 Lucy and George Dabagian

MESSAGE.....The Reverend Father Arshen Aivazian  
*Pastor, St. Leon Armenian Church*

ADDRESS AND BENEDICTION...His Eminence Bishop Khajag Barsamian  
*Primate, Diocese of the Armenian Church of America*



In Loving Memory of Khoren and Shoushan Barmakian  
E. George and Lucy Dabagian

In Loving Memory of Our Grandparents and Great-Grandparents  
Khoren and Shoushan Barmakian  
Richard & Chris Dabagian • Alan & Donna Philibosian • Richard & Linda Galgano  
Richie, Rickie, Christina, Matthew, Michael, Kim

**PARISH TRIVIA**

- Our Church was consecrated on September 19, 1965 by His Eminence Archbishop Sion Manoogian, Primate. Our Pastor was The Rev. Fr. Carnig Hallajian.
- The Building Committee consisted of E. George Dabagian, Chairman; Andrew Tilbian and John Nakashian, Associate Chairmen; Bette Noorigian, Secretary; Edward Torosian, Finance; John Jerahian and Andrew Purpuse, Fund Raising; Andrew Dabbakian and Paul Hachigian, Construction; Zaven Marootian, Memorials; and James Boyajian, Publicity.
- The first person to be baptized was Roger Gary Voskian on September 26, 1965.
- The first couple to be married was Kenneth Joseph Tashjian and Constance Ann Damiano on May 8, 1966.
- The first funeral service was for Makrouhi (Margaret) Dishian on December 14, 1965.
- The Chairman of the Parish Council was Paul Hachigian.
- Our Diocesan Delegates were Andrew Tilbian and John Nakashian.
- The Chairlady of the Ladies Aid Society was Lucy Dabagian.
- The Armenian School enrollment was 25, and the annual tuition was \$10.00.
- The Choir Director and Organist was Lucy Dabagian.
- Deacons were Mihran Noorigian, Dikran Tavitian and Charles Pinajian.
- The Sunday School Superintendent was Yeretzgin Rose Hallajian, with an enrollment of 86.

*COST OF COMPLETED CHURCH*

Real Estate.....	\$ 56,000.00
General Construction Contract.....	161,000.00
Construction change orders and options.....	14,828.00
Architect's Fee.....	10,473.00
Legal Fees.....	1,563.00
Miscellaneous (Driveway, Hall Ceiling, Kitchen).....	16,522.00
Approximate Cost of Church Furnishings (Pews, Chandaliers, Stain Glass, Side Altars, etc.).....	45,000.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$305,386.00</b>

**WE EXIST AND ARE HERE TO STAY**

Your tempests delivered our bodies to the devouring mouth of Der Zor, But we, undying David of Sasson, From the thousand sunrises of the world exclaim—PRESENT. We are the resplendant sun against your thunder.

WE EXIST AND ARE HERE TO STAY.

Your malice tried to rust away our pure name from the face of the earth, But we, sculptured like our ancestor Haig on the annals of time, We resound from the pages of history—PRESENT.

WE EXIST AND ARE HERE TO STAY.

Your vengeful fires turned our literature and our spirit into ashes, But we, like a radiant Mesrob, Exclaim from the valleys of time—PRESENT.

WE EXIST AND ARE HERE TO STAY.

You attempted to prune our faith with the cruel avarice of your scepter, But we, as impregnable Vartan, Trumpet from the battlefield of Avarire—PRESENT. We are like an indomitable pine against your scepter,

WE EXIST AND ARE HERE TO STAY.

With your ferocious claws you dismembered our soil, But we, like our perennial Massis, Roar with a thundering voice from the mountaintops of the future—PRESENT.

WE EXIST AND ARE HERE TO STAY.

We are like a vengeful dam against your flood, An enduring rock against your ignoble claws.

WE EXIST AND ARE HERE TO STAY.

From Massissadzin  
Jacques Hagopian  
(Trans. Ruth Ajemian)

*"Therefore, you shall love the Lord your God, with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. Take to heart these words which I enjoin on you today."*

*Joel 1:3*



**A.C.Y.O.A.**

*Front row (l. to r.): Raffi Jessourian, Vice Chairman; Sue Chagachbanian, Corresponding Secretary; Nadine Aljian, Chairperson; Patti Toofangjian, Membership Chairperson; Linda Chagachbanian, Membership Vice Chairperson.*

*Missing from photo: Peter Bedevian, Treasurer; Anahid Arakelian, Recording Secretary.*



Mr. and Mrs. Noubar Jessourian, Sevan and Raffi  
We Share your joy and many accomplishments

*"Train a boy in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not swerve from it."*

*Proverbs 22:6*



**A.C.Y.O.A. Juniors**

*Front row (l. to r.):* Dawn Hourdajian, Advisor; Rev. Arshen Aivazian, President; Dionne Shegerian, Chairperson. *Second row:* Diana Tossounian, Treasurer; Joyce Kurdian, Co-Secretary.

*Missing from photo:* Stephanie Basralian, Co-Secretary; Talar Sesetyan, Vice Chairperson; Joanne Tashjian, Advisor.



Sarkis, Ruth, Peter, Debra and Peggy Bedevian

*"People were bringing their little children to him to have Him touch them. . .!"  
Mark 10:13*



**Armenian School**

*First row (l. to r.):* Barbara Hovsepian, MaryAnn Mozian, Rev. Arshen Aivazian, Arda Kiljian, Emily Avedian. *Second row:* Barbara Boghosian, Rose Najarian, Zabelle Kaprelian, Hagop Aram, Silva Jinivizian. *Third row:* Vahe Kiljian, Rosine Hovsepian, Sirarpi Aram, Lucy Garabedian, Hasmig Sanossian.  
*Missing from photo:* Armena Pechdimaldji, Claire Hamalian, Jenia Kazanjian, Vera Tutundjian.

**Principals 1965-1990**

Rev. Carnig Hallajian  
Vahram Varjabedian  
Hermine Menakian  
Verkine Marashian  
Hagop Aram

**Chairpersons**

Rose Najarian.....1981-1986  
MaryAnn Mozian.....1986-1990



"You know that while all the runners in the stadium take part in the race, the award goes to one man. In that case, run so as to win!"  
 1 Corinthians 9:24



### Basketball

*Front row (l. to r.):* Taline Jessourian, Girls Coach; Rev. Arshen Aivazian, Steven Chagachbanian, Junior Boys Coach. *Second row:* Talin Hovsepian, Girls Coach; George Kachajian, Junior Boys Coach. *Missing from photo:* Paul Kapoian, Senior Boys Coach, Gary Soultanian, Senior Boys Coach, Robert Ohnikian, Mens League Coach.





*"Tell it to your children, and your children to their children, and their children to the next generation."*

*Deuteronomy 6:5-7*



**Care and Share**

*First row (l. to r.): Nancy Burdman, Linda Galgano, Barbara Royland. Second row: Carol Ashbahian, Andrea Tilbian-Halejian, Kathy Feredjian.*

**Chairpersons**

- Regina Ohanyan.....Founder 1981-1982
- Linda Capizzi.....1983-1984
- Nancy Burdman.....1985-1986
- Dawn Hourdajian.....1987
- Joanne Tashjian.....1988
- Linda Galgano.....1989-1990

Charles and Grace Pinajian



"Remember your leaders who spoke the word of God to you; consider how their lives ended and imitate their faith."

Hebrews 13:7



**Senior Citizens**

Front row (l. to r.): Rose Chookazian, Vice Chairman; Rev. Arshen Aivazian, President; Vartir Arakelian, Hospitality. Second row: Nikolai Kondakjian, Treasurer; Manuk Capan, Chairman.

"In the dawn of that day the stars sang together, and the heavenly beings shouted for joy."

Job 38:7



**Choir and Deacons**

Front row (l. to r.): Emerald Noorigian, Rose Kirian, Rev. Arshen Aivazian, Florence Gulkasian, Shakeh McMahon. Second row: Alice Najarian, Helen Mazoujian, Blanda Yilanjian, Stenig Loughead, Vivian Hovsepian, Rosin Hovsepian, Grace Kurdian. Third row: Joyce Kurdian, Lynn Beylerian, Sirvart Galstian, Organist; Berdj Feredjian, Sarkis Soutanian. Back row: Leon Dourgarian, Vahe Kiljian, Aram Mazoujian, Charles Pina-jian, George Paroonagian, Director. Missing from photo: Manuk Capan, Lucy Dabagian, Araxie Gamgochian, Gabriel Kaprelian, Brett Noorigian, Wayne Rallo.

**ORGANISTS AND CHOIR DIRECTORS**

- Sisak Sargavak Nalbandian\* ..... 1929-1934 (Khoren Kahana Mamigonian)
- Esther Avedisian<sup>0</sup>\* ..... 1929-1941
- Margaret Tilbian De Dominicis<sup>0</sup>\* ..... 1942-1943
- Isabel Pabian Lamont<sup>0</sup>\* ..... 1943-1945
- Esther Avedisian<sup>0</sup>\* ..... 1948-1950
- Lillian Boyajian Kasparian<sup>0</sup>\* ..... 1950-1953
- Lucy Dabagian<sup>0</sup>\* ..... 1953-1978
- Lucille Varjian<sup>0</sup> ..... 1979
- Sirvart Galstian<sup>0</sup> ..... 1980-present
- George Paroonagian\* ..... 1978-present

Assistant Organists:  
 Arline Dadekian  
 Dawn Dabbakian-Hourdajian  
 George Marootian

\*Choir Director  
<sup>0</sup>Organist

**DEACONS**

- Dikran Tavitian
- Charles Pinajian
- Sarkis Soutanian
- Shavarsh Torosian
- Hagop Demirdjian
- Dr. Berdj Feredjian

**SUB DEACONS**

- Mihran Noorigian
- Bared Dabaghian
- Sarkis Jamjochian
- George Marootian
- Peter Gamgochian
- Richard Dabagian
- Wayne Rallo
- Jeff Zoraian
- George Paroonagian
- Manuk Capan

*"But Jesus said, "Let the children come to me. Do not hinder them. The Kingdom of God belongs to such as these."*

*Matthew 19:14*



**Sunday School**

*Front row (l. to r.):* Linda Galgano, Treasurer; Nancy Sccichitano, Donna Siroonian, Assistant Superintendent; Barbara Hovsepian, Superintendent, Rina Haigounian. *Second row:* Loren Medina, Secretary; Andrea Tilbian-Halejian, Sona Manuelian, Virginia Hachadourian, Treasurer; Suzanne Azarian. *Third row:* Tony Sccichitano, Joyce Ishkanian, Dennis Tarzian, Tom Ashbahian. *Missing from photo:* Rev. Arshen Aivazian, Araxy Moumdjian, Patti Toofangjian.

**SUPERINTENDENTS**

- Yeretzgin Rose Hallajian.....1965-1966
- Ann Dishian Pace & Elsie Bedrosian.....1967-1971
- Yeretzgin Rose Hallajian & Ann Dishian Pace.....1971-1972
- Ann Dishian Pace & George Marootian.....1972-1973
- Leon Hojegian.....1973-1974
- Sarkis Bedevian.....1975-1977
- Rosalie/ & Leon Hojegian.....1978-1980
- Berdjouhi Feredjian.....1980-1981
- Barbara Hovsepian.....1981-1983
- Berdjouhi Feredjian.....1983-1985
- Barbara Hovsepian.....1985-1987
- Linda Paroonagian.....1987-1989
- Barbara Hovsepian.....1989-present



Berdj and Katherine Feredjian  
A dedication to our youth,  
the future of our church!

Thomas, Carol, Adrienne and Lauren Ashbahian

*"In every way your liberality is enriched; through us it results in thanks offered to God. The administering of this public benefit not only supplies the needs of the members of the church but also overflows in much gratitude to God.."*

*2 Corinthians 9:11-12*



**Women's Guild**

*Front row (l. to r.):* Lucille Varjian, Vice Chairperson; Helen Mazoujian, Chairperson. *Second row:* Donna Siroonian, Treasurer; Florence Gulkasian, Corresponding Secretary; Margaret Semonian, Recording Secretary; Barbara Hovsepian, Advisor.

*Missing from photo:* Rev. Arshen Aivazian, President.

**CHAIRLADIES**

- Lucy Dabagian.....1965-1966
- Dovie Tilbian.....1967-1968
- Florence Gulkasian.....1969-1970
- Agnes Voskian.....1971-1972
- Varsen Torosian.....1973-1974
- Berjuhi Varjabedian.....1975-1976
- Siran Gabrellian.....1977
- Siran Gabrellian and Berjuhi Varjabedian.....1978
- Florence Grunstra.....1979-1980
- Olga Chongoushian.....1981-1982
- Florence Grunstra.....1983
- Florence Grunstra and Edna Tungrian.....1984
- Edna Tungrian.....1985
- Katherine Ohnikian and Helen Haig.....1986
- Helen Haig.....1987
- Barbara Hovsepian.....1988
- Helen Mazoujian.....1989-1990



Rex and Anne Kachigian  
 Congratulations on your 25th Anniversary

St. James Armenian Church  
 Westchester, N.Y.



The Market Basket,  
 Fine Catering, Prime Meats, Delicatessen,  
 Bakery, Gourmet Foods, Fish, Fresh Produce  
 Franklin Lakes — 891-1329 Wyckoff — 891-1212

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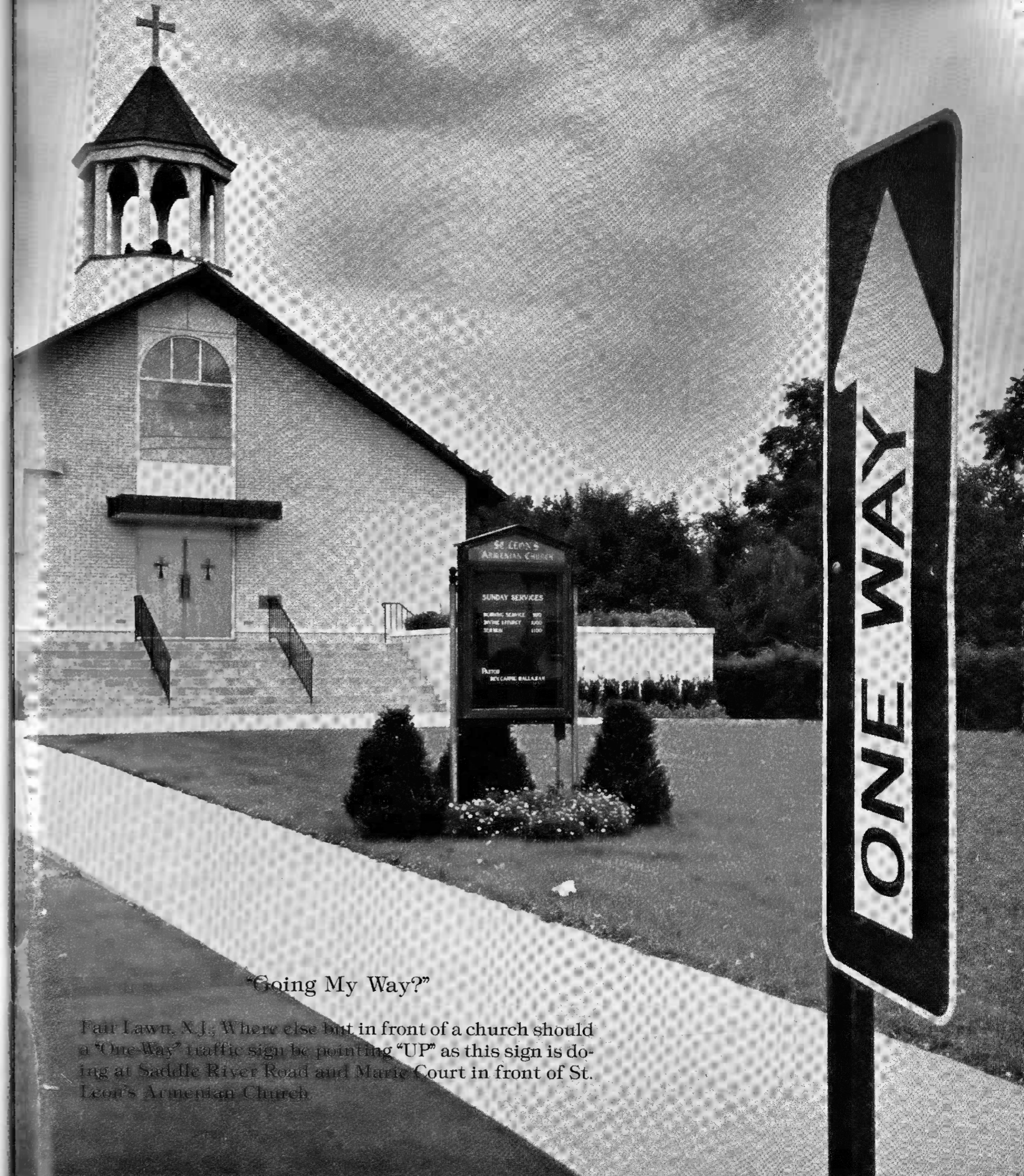
Minchin Funeral Home

Vander Plaat Colonial Home, Inc.

## I AM AN ARMENIAN

I am an Armenian.  
I belong to an ancient race  
whose roots are in the subsoil of history and  
whose branches pierce the sky of man's hopes.  
I have known ignorance and worshiped false  
gods but once I saw the light  
I have never wavered from the path of truth.  
My alphabet was not created for the babblings  
of earth but to proclaim the word of god.  
I am alive  
because I have died.  
Nations conspired to dig my grave  
but I hold the scales of justice.  
I own no territory  
but the earth is mine.  
In the slavery of governments  
I am free.  
He who touches me  
touches God.  
He who walks with me  
walks toward the light.  
I am the silent voice  
that stills the thunder of the world.  
I am primordial dust  
and will consume the world  
in the fire of love.

—Vartan Hartunian



### “Going My Way?”

Fair Lawn, N.J. Where else but in front of a church should a “One Way” traffic sign be pointing “UP” as this sign is doing at Saddle River Road and Marie Court in front of St. Leon's Armenian Church.

### Gold Sponsors

Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Bchakjian  
Arthur and Lynn Beylerian  
In Memory of Shoushan and  
Khoren Barmakian  
Mr. and Mrs. Martin Z. Boyajian  
Haig Robert Casparian  
In Memory of Jack Chekemian  
Armen and Lisa Tutunjian & Michael  
In Loving Memory of Andrew Dabbakian  
Building Construction Chairman—1965  
Ara and Dawn Hourdajian  
Sebouh, Seta, Vicken, Taline Jessourian  
Harry and Edna Keleshian  
Knarig, Ralph, Ara, Armen & Nani Nevert  
Jack and Carol Margossian,  
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Avedis and Garo Caparyan  
James and Emerald Noorigian  
Arthur and Katherine Ohnikian  
Edward, Armine, Sybil and  
Stephan Pechdimaldji  
In Memory of Asdine Sagatelian  
Barkev K. Sagatelian  
St. Leon Care and Share  
Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs  
St. Thomas Armenian Church  
Wishing many more years of service  
to God and our community  
Mr. and Mrs. James Soojian  
David and Gail Soultanian  
Tossounians, Jacques, Eliz,  
Nora, Sylva and Diana  
Arto and Amy Vartoukian  
Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Voskian

### Silver Sponsors

Rev. Arshen, Yeretzgin Sirarpi,  
Macrina and Timothy Aivazian  
Joseph and Lucy Bedrosian  
Best wishes to St. Leon  
Edward, Barbara, Leslie and  
Christopher Boghosian  
Congratulations on 25 successful years  
Peter, Maryann, Christina and  
Alissa Bonjukian  
Rose Chookazian  
John and Mimi Demirdjian,  
Sylva and John Garo  
In Memory of Carol and Marge Donabedian  
Jerry J. Donabedian  
In Loving Memory of Mother and Wife  
Susie Dabog  
Florence Grunstra and John Dabog  
Robert and Joyce Ishkanian  
In Memory of Peter Jesraly  
Ardemis Jesraly  
Kaprelian Oriental Rugs and Carpets, Inc.  
In Loving Memory of Mirjan Kirian  
and Arcknaz Margossian  
Rose, Sosie, Viken Kirian  
Kuiken Brothers Company, Inc.  
Isabelle Jerahian Lamont  
Leo and Sona Manuelian  
We wish St. Leon Parish many years of  
progress and spiritual growth.  
Proud to be a part.  
Rev. Paree and Yeretzgin Angel Metjian  
Rose Najarian  
Mr. and Mrs. Vasken Ohanian  
Paul Pinajian  
St. Sahag - St. Mesrob Armenian Church  
Environmental & Chemical Testing  
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Bruce P. Semonian, PhD  
In Memory of Harry Tarzian  
Dennis and Linda Tarzian  
Kenneth and Constance Tashjian & Family  
Richard and Gloria Tomasian  
Edward and Rose Torosian

### Bronze Sponsors

Margaret and Glenn Ajamian	Dorothy Karamian
George and Betty Amregian	Best wishes to the St. Leon Parish Vahe and Arda Kiljian
Steve and Ruby Aprahamian	Donna, David, Donna Kristie and David Arthur Siroonian
Minas and Vartir Arakelian	Bill, Shakch and Ara McMahon and Archalous Nokhoudian
Rev. Arten and Yerezgin Mary Ashjian	Wishing health and happiness to our friends at St. Leon Antoine and Araxy Moumdjian
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Bandazian	Robert and MaryAnn, Jeannine and Craig Mozian
Irene Bianco and Lauren	Alin and Albert Papazian
Parris and Linda Capizzi	Jan and Barbara Royland
Cercis Amoco Service, Inc.	Mr. and Mrs. Albert Sahatjian and Family
Mr. and Mrs. John Chagachbanian & Family	Ms. A. Kondrajian and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sanossian
In Memory of Henry Chaputian Mrs. Margaret Chaputian	Semonian Family, Margaret, Peggy, Bruce, Viv and Bret
Hiag and Olga Chongoushian	In Loving Memory of Parents Harry and Haigouhi Boyajian and Brother Richard George and Marion Shahinian
In Loving Memory of my Beloved Husband Andrew Dabbakian Mary Dabbakian	Sirvart and Papken Simonyan
Anita, Bruce, Amy and Diana Dadaian	Violet Stamboulian
John and Rose Donigian	Helen Tarzian
Albert and Isabel Ghizzoni	Richard and Jo Ann Tashjian
Mrs. Florence Gulkasian	Edna Tungrian
Douglas and Lisa Haledjian, Gregory and Julie	Walter and Arpie Vartanesian
In Memory of Arpine Holopikian Virginia Holopikian	In Memory of Harry and Nevert Sahatjian Leon and Alice Yazmajian
Barbara and Leon Hovsepien, Haig and Lori	
Steven and Corinne Kachigian	
Evelyn, Eddie and Edward Kalpagian	



**Banquet Committee**

*Front row (l. to r.):* Agnes Voskian, Secretary; Rev. Arshen Aivazian, President; S. Rex Kachigian, Chairman, Anne Kachigian, Treasurer. *Second row:* Grace Pinajian, Ruth Bedevian, Dawn Hourdajian, Tom Ashbahian, Alfred Voskian. *Third row:* Charles Pinajian, Margaret Ajamian, John Voskian, Sarkis Soultanian. *Missing from photo:* Dovie Tilbian.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to:

Mr. and Mrs. E. George Dabagian — Printing

Mrs. Rose Kirian — Typesetting

Mr. George Paroonagian — Banquet Photographer

Treasure Island — Decorations

Taline Jessourian — Cover Design

And all parishioners and friends who are faithful givers of their time, talent and treasure for the growth of St. Leon Armenian Church and for the Glory of God.

We realize that many of our parishioners are not pictured or recognized in this booklet. We wish our church records enabled us to include everyone's photographs and names.

Remember, God knows who you are and what you have given to His church and your family. He recognizes everyone!





IN MEMORY OF  
MY BELOVED



HUSBAND HARRY, BY  
DIKRANOUHI NAKASHIAN

