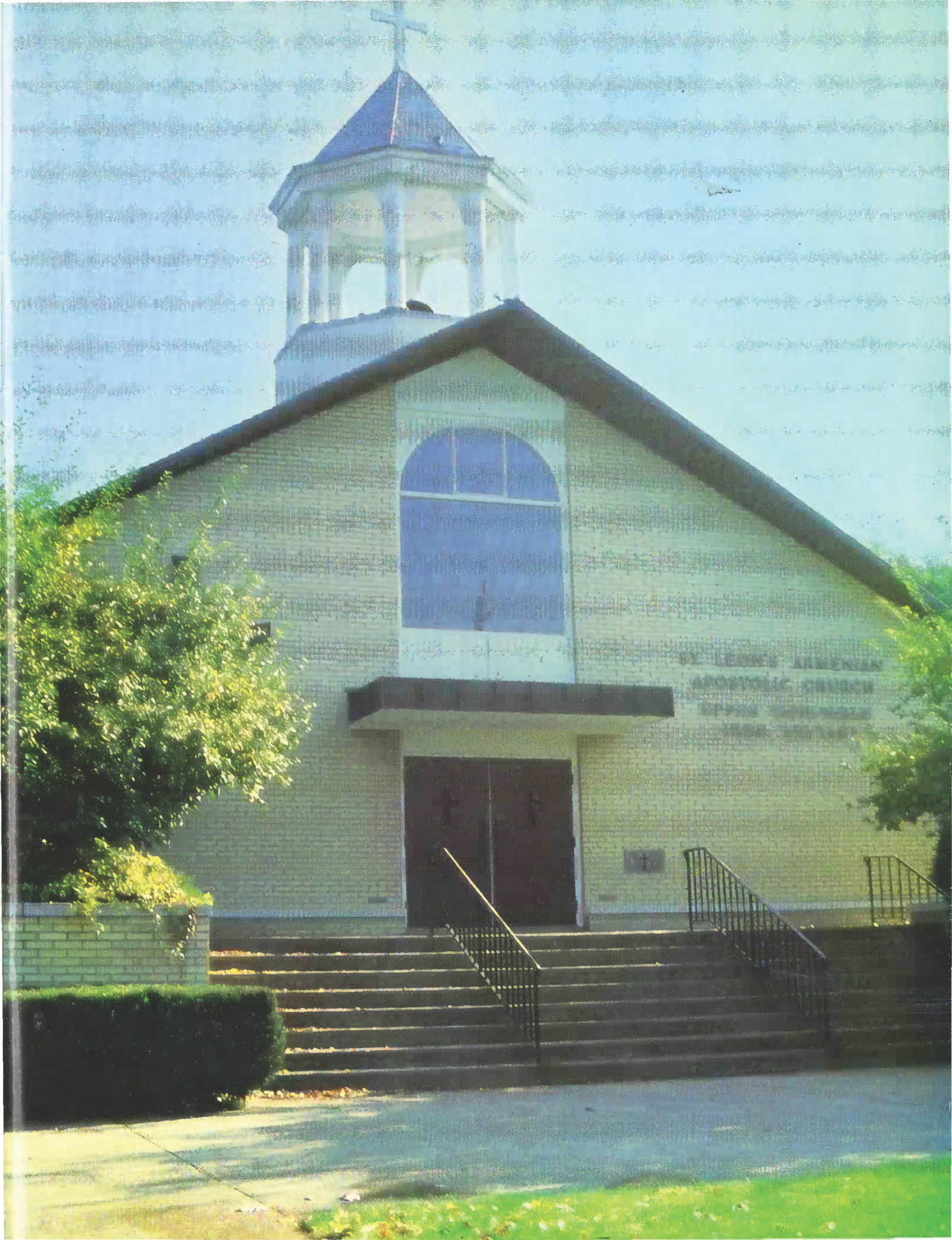


50th Anniversary

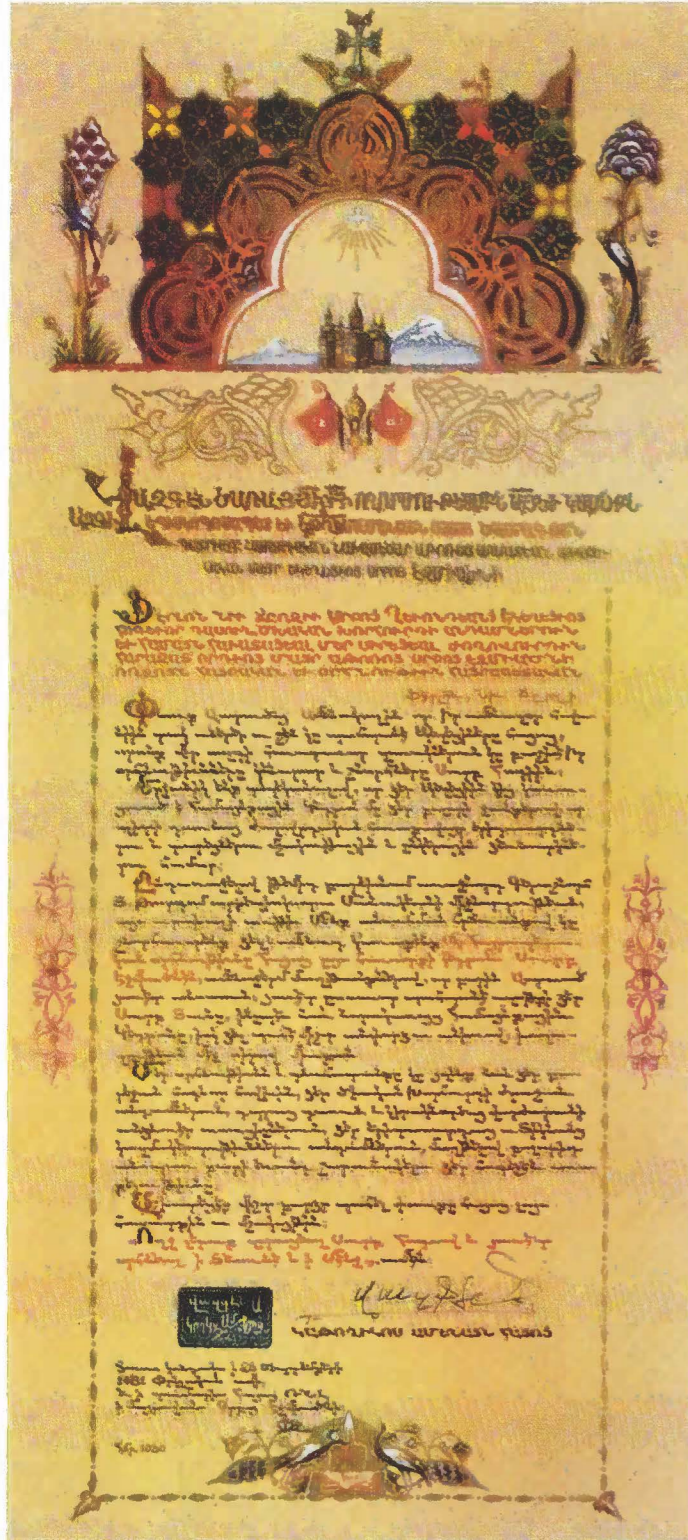
*St. Leon
Armenian Church*

*November 11, 1984
Fair Lawn, New Jersey*





HIS HOLINESS VASKEN I
Supreme Patriarch, 130th Catholicos of All Armenians



VASKEN, SERVANT OF CHRIST, BY THE GRACE OF GOD AND THE WILL OF OUR PEOPLE, ARCHBISHOP AND CATHOLICOS OF ALL ARMENIANS AND SUPREME PATRIARCH OF THE PREEMINENT NATIONAL APOSTOLIC SEE OF ARARAT, ETCHMIADZIN.

ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH, PASTOR, MEMBERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL AND TO ALL OUR FAITHFUL PEOPLE OF HOLY MOTHER SEE, ETCHMIADZIN AND FATHERLY GREETINGS AND PONTIFICAL BLESSINGS.

By the Grace of God Almighty, you have consummated the founding of St. Leon parish 50 years ago.

It is a Jubilee, a spiritual victory in the bosom of God-loving American people, and a true jubilee, not only to your parish, but particularly to the Holy See of Etchmiadzin.

We implore Heavenly Blessings upon your deceased Reverend pastors, Benefactors and Parish Council members for their souls. To this day, because of their loyalty, the church continues to be a house of prayer, situated in the City of Fair Lawn.

On this happy occasion and in response to the request by your Primate, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, we congratulate you and convey our Pontifical Blessings. We express our heartfelt wishes that Almighty God will always reserve and keep unshaken your house of worship, so that from her Holy Altar may radiate the bountiful Gifts of the Holy Spirit to all your faithful children and future generations for the Glory of God and the Armenian Apostolic Holy Church.

“Peace be with you and live a holy life, because no one will see the Lord without it.” Hebrews 12:14 Amen.

Vasken I
Catholicos of All Armenians

This encyclical was issued September 21, 1984 in the year of Our Lord and as per the Armenian Calendar 1433 at the monastery of Holy Etchmiadzin.



HIS HOLINESS VASKEN I
Supreme Patriarch, 130th Catholicos of All Armenians



ԱՌԱՋՆՈՐԴՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ ՀԱՅՈՑ

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

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

ԱՌԱՋՆՈՐԴ ՍՐԲԱԶԱՆ ՀՕՐ ԽՕՍՔԸ ՖԵՐԼՈՆԻ ՍՐԲՈՑ ՂԵՒՈՆԳԵԱՆՑ ԵԿԵՂԵՑՒՈՑ 50-ԱՄԵԱԿԻՆ ԱՌԹԻԻ

Հոգեկան ուրախությամբ կ'ողջունենք Ֆերլոնի Սրբոց Ղեռնդեանց Եկեղեցույ կազմութեան 50-ամեակը: Ունէ Հայ կրնայ անվարան կերպով հաստատել որ մեր ժողովուրդի զաւակներուն եկեղեցաւեր, հայրենաւեր ու ազգաւեր ոգին կը կերտուի Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցույ հովանիին ներքեւ, եւ եկեղեցական կազմակերպութիւններու միջոցաւ:

Հակառակ մեր ժողովուրդին վիճակուած անարդար ճակատագրին՝ մեր գոյութիւնն ու ինքնութիւնը կրցած ենք պահպանել գլխաւորաբար շնորհիւ մեր հաւատքին եւ «քրիստոսանշան կնիքով» սրբագործուած մեր Եկեղեցիին, ուր մեր ոսկեղնիկ լեզուով երգուած շարականներն ու արտասանուած աղօթքները մխիթարած ու զօրացուցած են մեզ՝ վերապրելու մեր գոյապայքարին մէջ:

Այսօր, դէպի երկինք բարձրացող մեր իրաքանչիւր Աղօթքի Տուն՝ մէջ մէկ հոգեւոր յաղթանակ է՝ շահուած մեր ազգային գոյութեան ի նպաստ մղուած ճակատամարտին մէջ:

Մենք փառք կու տանք Աստուծոյ որ Իր շնորհներով միշտ զօրավիզ կանգնած է մեր ժողովուրդին, եւ անոր ընել տուած է այն բոլոր գործերը՝ զորս Ինք կ'ուզէր որ ընէինք:

Մեզի ծանօթ է այժմու Ֆերլոնի Սրբոց Ղեռնդեանց Եկեղեցույ պատմութիւնը, որ ինքնին մեր ժողովուրդի պատմութեան անանստիպն է: Փաթրարնի մէջ կազմուած փոքր համայնքէ մը եւ անշուք աղօթավայրէ մը ծնունդ առաւ այսօրուան բարգաւաճ համայնքը եւ գեղակերտ Եկեղեցին ու համայնքային կեդրոնը: Եւ այս ծրագիրը իրագործուեցաւ շնորհիւ հաւատաւոր, իմաստուն եւ գիտակից այն անդամներուն՝ որոնք նիւթական ու բարոյական ամէն զոհողութիւն յանձն առին եւ ոչինչ խնայեցին իրենց զաւակներուն ժառանգ ձգելու համար շէն ու պայծառ համայնք մը ու Եկեղեցի մը:

Այսօր Ղեռնդեանց Եկեղեցույ 50-ամեակի տօնակատարութիւնը պարտք կը դնէ Հոգեւոր Հովիւին, Ծիսական Խորհուրդին, եկեղեցական կազմակերպութեանց եւ բոլոր անդամներուն վրայ նոյն հաւատքով, ոգիով եւ խանդավառութեամբ շարունակելու սկսուած այս աստուածահաճոյ ու բարի գործը՝ բարգաւաճ ու գործունէայ պահելու համայնքի հոգեւոր, կրթական, մշակութային ու ընկերային կեանքը:

Որպէս Առաջնորդ Ամերիկայի Հայոց կ'օրհնենք Սրբոց Ղեռնդեանց Եկեղեցույ բոլոր հաւատացեալները, եւ կ'աղօթենք որ Տէրը միշտ անասան պահէ Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցին, եւ մեր հաւատացեալ ժողովուրդը առաջնորդէ դէպի հոգեւոր նոր բարձունքներ:

Սիրոյ ողջունիւ

ԹՈՐԿՈՄ ԱՐՔԵՊԻՍԿՈՊՈՍ
Առաջնորդ

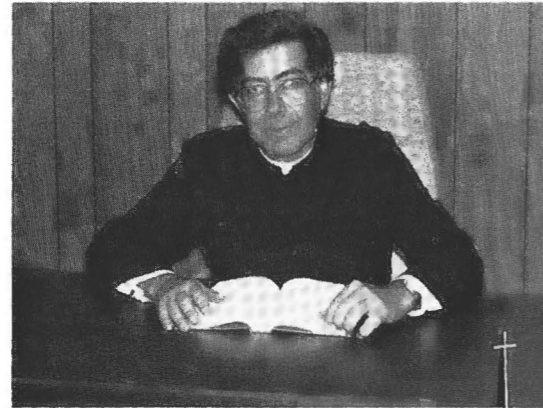


HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP TORKOM MANOOGIAN
Primate, Armenian Church of America—Eastern Diocese



ՍՐԲՈՑ ՂԵՒՈՆԴԵԱՆՑ ՀԱՅՑ. ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ
Տէր Բարի Քչնյ. Մէթճեան, Հովիւ

ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH
Rev. Pree Metjian, Pastor



**50th ANNIVERSARY
A YEAR OF JUBILEE FOR ST. LEON PARISH**

Our hearts are filled with joy and pride as we celebrate a half century of service to God and community. Our forefathers, deprived from their freedom of worship, founded St. Leon with deep faith and much sacrifice. Their example is a source of inspiration.

St. Leon parish has an impressive record of many accomplishments: the purchase of the Paterson church in 1932, the consecration of a new church edifice in 1965, and the completion of a Community Center and Educational Wing in 1981. Our members have expressed their undying spirit to God through their continued noble deeds.

Our Jubilee celebration is especially joyful because one of our former pastors, His Beatitude Archbishop Shnork Kaloustian, is honoring us with his presence. We are grateful to him, to all our former pastors and lay leaders for their divine guidance and deep sense of loyalty.

I commend the members of St. Leon on this Golden Jubilee Anniversary. Let the beacon of hope provided by the Holy Spirit endow us with a clear spiritual vision in the years to come.

Prayerfully,

Pree Metjian
Rev. Pree Metjian



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 23, 1984

To Reverend Pree Metjian and the Congregation
of the St. Leon Armenian Church:

The 50th Anniversary of the founding of the St. Leon Armenian Church is indeed a joyous moment in the life of your parish. I know that these past five decades have been filled with dedication, hard work, and growth, because I have been personally touched by the devotion that Armenian-Americans have for their Church.

Both Nancy and I extend our sincere congratulations to you on this happy occasion. May you continue to enjoy the Almighty's blessings in nurturing future generations in Christian values and service.

Ronald Reagan



ՍՐԲՈՑ ՂԵՒՈՆԴԵԱՆՑ ՀԱՅՑ. ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ
Տէր Բարի Քչնյ. Մէթճեան, Հովիւ

ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH
Rev. Paree Metjian, Pastor

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Leon:

Today we have the privilege not only to celebrate 50 years of our church's history, but also to pay tribute to all those who went before us, whose devotion and hard work made possible today's joyous milestone.

It is well-known that St. Leon was established in Paterson in 1932, moved to Fair Lawn in 1965 and erected a Community Center and Educational Wing in 1981. Somewhat less known is the foresight and sacrifices of our forebears and ourselves that brought us to today's celebration. We have been blessed with priests whose vision and spiritual guidance have inspired us. We have been blessed also with countless dedicated members of the Women's Guild, Sunday School, Armenian School, ACYOA and other organizations striving for the improvement of St. Leon.

I feel proud to have been a member of the St. Leon parish for these past ten years. When my family joined, there was the church itself and a house trailer—and talk of building a community center and better educational facilities. In just a few years that "talk" became a reality. Now there is talk of future goals. Who knows what accomplishments will be celebrated at our 60th anniversary!

Today's celebration must be a reminder to us and also a challenge. We honor those that have gone before us and commit ourselves to those yet to come. As we begin our second 50 years, I pray that those who follow us cultivate the same willingness to serve their beloved St. Leon Church.

Arthur Ohnikian

Parish Council Chairman



Parish Council

Seated (l. to r.): Arthur Ohnikian, Chairman; Rev. Paree Metjian.
Middle row: Sarkis Soultanian, Advisor; Dorothy Karanlian, Corresponding Secretary; Vahram Varjabedian, Advisor. **Back row:** Thomas Ashbahian, Assistant Treasurer; Noubar Jessourian, Advisor; Steven Kachigian, Treasurer; Roland Hepsen, Vice-Chairman; Arto Vartoukian, Recording Secretary; John Chagachbanian, Advisor; Vasken Ohanyan, Advisor.



Diocesan Delegates

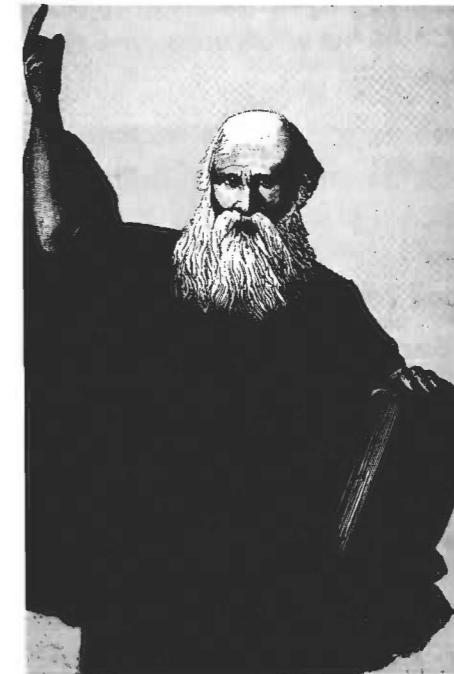
Charles Pinajian, Dovie Tilbian, Rev. Paree Metjian, Zaven Dadekian.

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.



Copyright — Rev. Vartan Hartunian



SOORP GHEVONT

At the dawn of the 5th century, Armenia was an independent nation. Its people had invented an alphabet, translated the Holy Bible and established their first university. It was during this era, known as the Golden Age of Literature, that a promising young man was ordained a priest. His name was Father Ghevont. He emerged as the most enlightened leader after the deaths of the great illuminators, St. Sahag and St. Mesrob. The St. Leon parish is honored to be the only church in America that bears his name.

In 432 AD, King Ardashes was deposed, exiled and jailed in Persia. The Persians were determined to destroy the Christianity of Armenia and establish their religion of fire-worship. The Persians delivered an official ultimatum. Father Ghevont, chief spokesman, drafted a firm and dignified refusal. The Persians were enraged. Battle was inevitable. The eloquence of Father Ghevont inspired General Vartan Mamigonian to take command to defend the Armenian Christian religion and homeland.

The Battle of Avarair in 451 AD represents the first military battle fought in the defense of Christendom in the history of the world.

On the eve of the battle, Father Ghevont stressed the supreme sacrifice of Jesus, before offering the sacrament of Holy Communion. During the ensuing battle, General Vartan was killed, and the Armenian forces collapsed. Father Ghevont walked through the battlefield, administering last rites to the dying. He and other surviving clergy were captured, subjected to unbearable tortures, and finally put to death by the sword.

St. Ghevont's courageous spirit, patriotism and devotion to the Armenian Church have been a source of pride and inspiration for fifteen centuries.

St. Ghevont is the patron saint of the Armenian clergy and is remembered two days before Vartanantz Day when St. Vartan and the spiritual victory of the Battle of Avarair are commemorated.

HISTORY OF ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH

Before the turn of the 20th century, Armenians began to flee the persecution of the Ottoman Empire. Some settled in Paterson, the busy hub of the silk weaving industry. They arrived in small numbers with little money, fortified by an ancient heritage.

In those days, there were no parkways, no turnpikes. The roads were long, which led from Paterson to Passaic County to Holy Cross Armenian Church, Union City. Between the years 1906 and 1930, Armenians made the journey by horsecar and trolley car to Holy Cross, the "mother" church in the New World of New Jersey, to worship, to wed and to baptize their children.

So it was that the "Paterson Church," later to be consecrated St. Leon Armenian Church, became the healthy offspring of the parent.

The Armenians of Paterson rented halls and churches for occasional visiting clergy to celebrate liturgy and to administer the sacraments. Deacons also did their best to serve the community. By the late 1920's, the Armenians of Paterson desired their own church and pastor. Under the spiritual direction of the late Mampre Vartabed Calfayan, who later became Primate, a decision was made to purchase land for future use as a church site. The year was 1929. The project had to be abandoned because of the Depression.

It was not until 1932* that a special meeting was held, presided over by the late Primate, Archbishop Ghevont Tourian. A fund raising committee was formed to purchase a church for the Armenians of Paterson whose number was exceeding 500. In that same year, St. Luke Episcopal Church on Bloomfield Avenue, Paterson, was purchased for \$6,000. Despite a severe, world-wide depression, the entire mortgage was paid within two years.

The congregation was to spend the next 33 years in this modest church, which offered a center for religious and cultural continuity. Annual bazaars, hantesses, Armenian and Sunday School classes, and youth activities were organized and conducted in the basement hall. During those years, the children cultivated their values. The church fathers and lay leaders faced the decision to build a larger church with a community center and educational facilities. The second generation helped to meet this challenge.

In 1958, through the efforts of the parish council and the help of the late Haroutune Nakashian, three acres of land were purchased on Saddle River Road in Fair Lawn. The original plan was to erect a much needed community center and to follow it with the building of a new church.

In January 1963, during the pastorate of the newly ordained Reverend Carnig Hallajian, priorities were reversed. The parish assembly created an executive building committee and authorized to build a church. Under the General Chairmanship of E. George Dabagian, construction of the new church began in March 1965. On September 19, 1965 Archbishop Sion Manoogian, Primate, consecrated the newly erected St. Leon Armenian Church in Fair Lawn.

In the 16 years since the Consecration, the parish has continued to thrive. During the past decade Armenians leaving the political unrest of the Middle East have found a spiritual home to bridge the gap to life in the United States. They, in turn, have been a welcome impetus to the Armenian cultural life of St. Leon parish. The Church is the custodian of our heritage, which is being ingrained in yet another generation of parishioners.

The challenge was again presented to a modest people, small in numbers, but groomed in faith, hard work, and sacrifice. On February 3, 1980, the parish assembly created an executive building committee to plan an expansion project with Zaven Dadekian serving as General Chairman. On June 6, 1980, a special parish assembly authorized the Building Committee to proceed with construction of the long awaited St. Leon Armenian Church Community Center along with the conversion of the existing hall into an Educational Wing.

On November 9, 1980 Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate, blessed the site of the proposed Community Center. Contracts were signed with Joseph A. Natoli Construction Co., Pinebrook, N.J. on December 9, 1980. Following the plans of Thomas Ashbahian, project architect with the firm of Mario B. Cammarano, Ridgewood, N.J., the construction was begun and completed on schedule.

The parish life has continued to flourish with the additional classrooms and spacious Community Center facilities. For the first time in its history, St. Leon hosted the 82nd Annual Diocesan Assembly May 3-6, 1984. Banquets, weddings, Diocesan programs, plays, concerts, even a retreat (Women's Guild held its second annual retreat in the Community Center January 1983) have steadily filled the calendar since the completion of the Community Center.

It has been said that one generation travels on the achievements of another. We offer humble prayers on the eve of this celebration, that these historic and glorious years will inspire everyone. May the fellowship of the Holy Spirit remain with the St. Leon family and continue to illuminate the path that its posterity will travel.

*Actually, we are in the 52nd year.

HISTORIC DATES — ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH

| | | | |
|--------------------|--|--------------------|---|
| September 1928 | Ladies Aid Society founded (now called Women's Guild). | December 1, 1973 | Twenty-fifth Anniversary Celebration of the Ordination of Rev. Arten Ashjian, Pastor. |
| 1932 | "Paterson Church" purchased (on Bloomfield Avenue). | February 9, 1975 | Burning of the mortgage. |
| April 22, 1934 | Armenian School officially founded. | October 5, 1975 | Tenth Anniversary Celebration of the Consecration of Fair Lawn Church. |
| October 5, 1941 | Consecration of St. Leon Armenian Church in Paterson by Archbishop Karekin Hovsepian, Primate. | November 19, 1975 | Founding of Senior Citizen Center. |
| May 1, 1949 | Sunday School officially founded. | June 26, 1976 | Annual Vacation Bible School established. |
| February 1950 | Shnork Vartabed Kaloustian (now Patriarch of Armenians in Turkey) organized ACYOA. | April 17, 1977 | Ordination of seventeen acolytes by Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate. |
| February 1954 | Testimonial Dinner for Archbishop Mampre Calfayan. | April 29, 1979 | Celebration of Fiftieth Anniversary of Women's Guild. |
| May 22, 1960 | Twenty-fifth Anniversary Celebration of the founding of the Parish. | November 1979 | Girls' Basketball Team organized. |
| September 22, 1963 | Ground-blessing of Fair Lawn Church site by Archbishop Sion Manoogian, Primate. | May 3, 1980 | Tenth Anniversary Celebration of the Ordination of Rev. Patee Metjian, Pastor. |
| April 10, 1965 | Blessing of the Foundation Stones by Archbishop Sion Manoogian, Primate. | November 9, 1980 | Ground Blessing of Community Center and Ordination of Deacons by Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate. |
| September 19, 1965 | Consecration of St. Leon Armenian Church, Fair Lawn, by Archbishop Sion Manoogian, Primate. | November 15, 1981 | Dedication of Community Center and Educational Wing by Archbishop Torkom Manoogian. |
| January 1966 | Men's Club organized. | March 19, 1983 | 1st Spiritual Renewal Conference, "Living the Divine Liturgy", sponsored by the Diocese and hosted by St. Leon. |
| November 1969 | Boys' Basketball Team organized. | May 3-6, 1984 | 82nd Diocesan Assembly hosted by St. Leon. |
| June 28, 1970 | Tenth Anniversary Celebration of the Ordination of Rev. Carnig Hallajian, Pastor. | September 16, 1984 | Ordination of Deacon and seven Acolytes: Blessing of the Veils of six girls by Archbishop Torkom Manoogian. |
| January 23, 1972 | Ordination of Deacons and Acolytes by Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate. | November 11, 1984 | 50th Anniversary of St. Leon parish, His Beatitude, Archbishop Shnork Kaloustian, Patriarch of Istanbul, guest celebrant. |

HIS BEATITUDE SHNORK PATRIARCH KALOUSTIAN

His Beatitude was born in 1913 in Edeli, Turkey. He lost his family during the deportations of 1915. Only he, his mother and his brother, Armen, were saved, but he somehow was separated from his mother and was never able to see her again. Young Arshag (as he was christened) spent his years from 1920 to 1927 in the American orphanages in Beirut and Nazareth where he obtained his elementary education. In 1927 he was admitted to the school of the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem and was graduated in 1932. At that time he was ordained deacon by Torkom Patriarch. In 1935, after completing his studies in the theological school of the seminaries, he was ordained a celebrant priest by Torkom Patriarch and renamed, Shnork (Grace from God or of God).

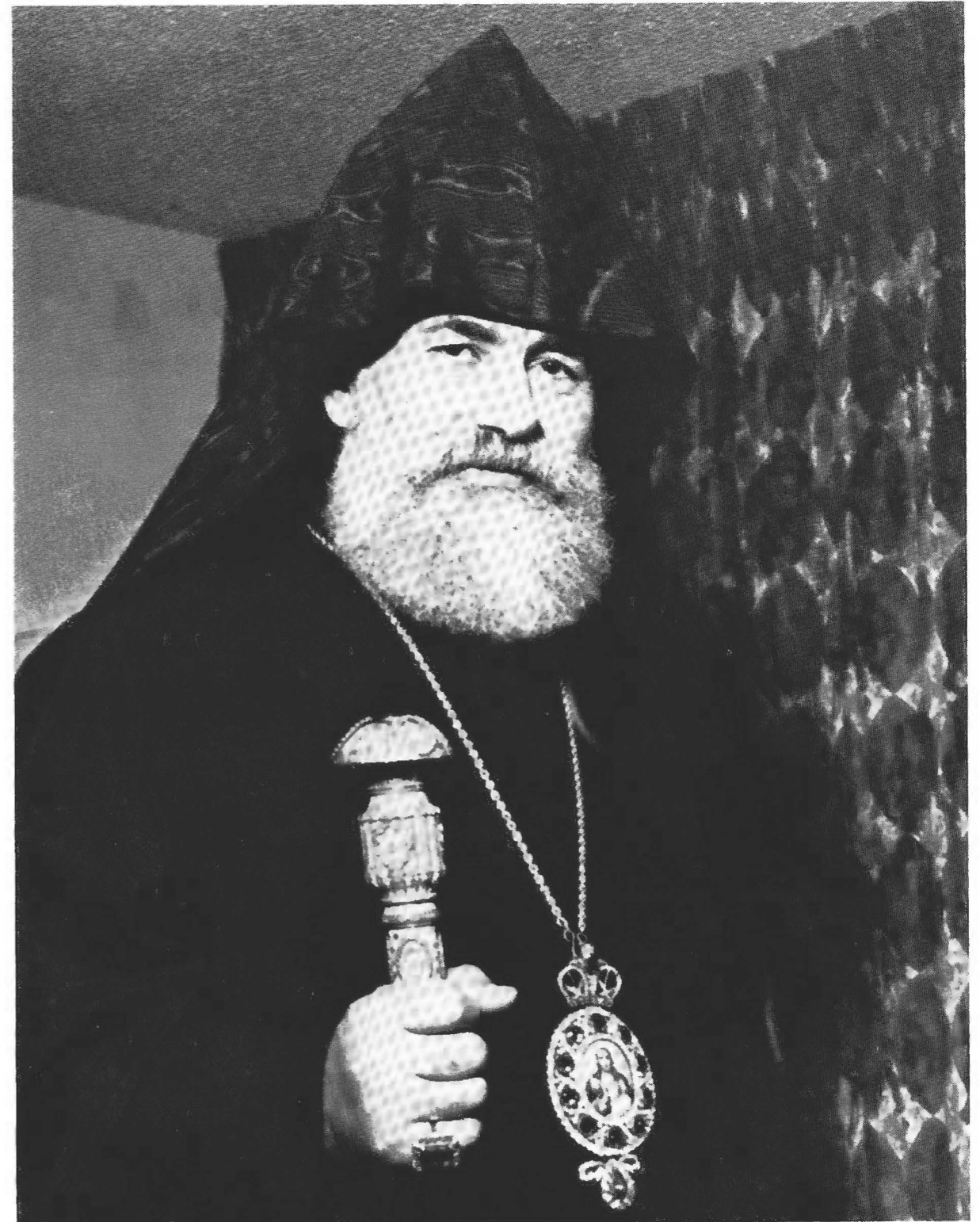
From 1936 to 1940 he served as Director of the Printing Press of the St. James Convent. From 1940 to 1941 he served as pastor of the Armenian parish in Haifa. From 1941 to 1944 he was named the Dean of the Antelias Seminary and taught the Armenian language, church history, as well as commentary of the Bible and Classical Armenian.

In 1945 he journeyed to London, England where he served as pastor of the St. Sarkis Armenian Church. He continued his theological studies there until 1948 when he was called by the primate of the Armenian Church of America, Tiran Surpazan, to assume the duties of pastor for both St. Leon Armenian Church of Paterson and St. Mary Armenian Church of Newark (now Fair Lawn and Livingston respectively).

While in America for those few years (1948-1955), he served as Diocesan Council Chairman, organized the Sunday Schools and Armenian Schools of the two New Jersey parishes, initiated the "Gantegh" newsletter, which is still the official newsletter of the St. Mary parish. His vision gave birth to the first ACYOA chapters of those parishes. He edited the official monthly publication of the Diocese, "Hayastanyaitz Yegeghetzy" (The Armenian Church). In 1953, he was elected Primate of the Diocese of California.

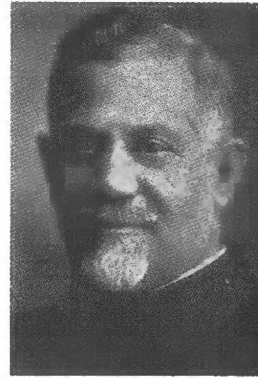
In 1955 he returned to Holy Etchmiadzin where on October 6 he was ordained Bishop by His Holiness Vazken the I. He returned to Jerusalem after his ordination and served as chief canon sacristan of the Armenian Patriarchate until 1959. He then went to Istanbul as the guest of the late Patriarch Karekin. On October 6, 1961 he was elected Patriarch and was installed January 3, 1962.

His Beatitude has written several books and publications and has translated several works from classical Armenian into modern Armenian. He continues to be a faithful, devoted and beloved shepherd to his work.



HIS BEATITUDE ARCHBISHOP SHNORK KALOUSTIAN
Patriarch of Armenians in Turkey

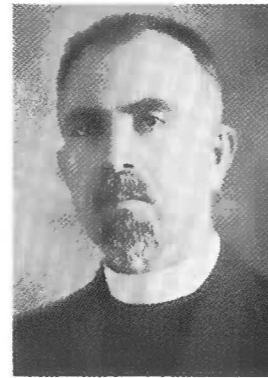
FORMER PASTORS OF ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH



Rev. Fr. Hovhannes
Kavookjian*
1936-1938



Archbishop Mampre Calfayan*
1939-1941 and 1953-1954



Rev. Fr. Vahan Jelalian*
1941-1947



H.B. Patriarch Shnork Kaloustian
1948-1951



Rev. Fr. Artin Ashjian
1951-1952 and 1972-1975



Rev. Fr. Vartan
Der Assadourian
1955-1956



Rev. Fr. Carnig Hallajian
1958-1972

*Deceased

ST. LEON PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMEN

| | |
|-----------|--------------------|
| 1941-1947 | Sahag Avedisian |
| 1948 | Ohaness Bejian |
| 1948 | Mihran Noorigian |
| 1950-1953 | Zaven Marootian |
| 1954-1956 | Albert Mardrossian |
| 1957 | Zaven Marootian |
| 1958-1959 | John Nakashian |
| 1960-1964 | Andrew Tilbian |
| 1965 | Paul Hachigian |
| 1966 | James Boyajian |
| 1967 | Paul Hachigian |
| 1968-1969 | Alfred A. Voskian |
| 1970 | Charles Pinajian |
| 1971-1972 | Zaven Dadekian |
| 1973 | Jon Najarian |
| 1974 | S. Rex Kachigian |
| 1975 | E. George Dabagian |
| 1976 | Jon Najarian |
| 1977 | Martin Kapoian |
| 1978-1980 | Charles Pinajian |
| 1981-1983 | Sarkis Soutanian |
| 1984 | Arthur Ohnikian |

Archbishop Leon Tourian

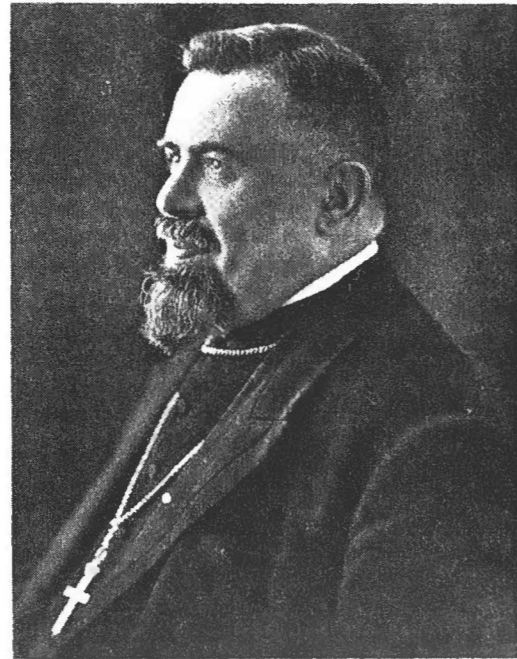
Founder of
ST. LEON'S CHURCH

PRELACY OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH
OF AMERICA

ԱՌԱՋՆՈՐԴԱՐԱՆ ՀԱՅՈՑ
ԱՄԵՐԻԿԱՅԻ

156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.
Room 1008 - 1008

Telephone CHelsea 3-1791



11 Ապրիլ 1933

Ազգայնական
Տոբ ախպար Նորիցիան
և ընտանիքին.

Պատասխանում եմ ձեր նշանաբանը ամենով:
Կը յարգեմ ձեր և ձեր գործակցության
ամենախնայալ մասնակցությունը և շնորհակալ եմ:
Թողանալով խնայողական կատարել ձեր
Առաջ և զարգացող ամենաբարեկ
թիւնը և երջանակները ձեր
անկողնի ողջունելով և շնորհակալ
թիւնը և շնորհակալ ընտանիքին:
Արեւիկ և զբաղմունքը ձեր
Առաջարկը և շնորհակալ
Ձեր սիրով ընտանիքին

Honorable
Mr. Mihran Noorigian
Paterson

September 11, 1933

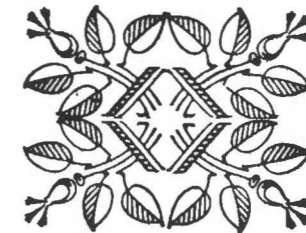
I have received your kind letter. I congratulate you and your friends' devotion and perseverance. I advise you to organize yourself under the leadership of Deacon Sisak and increase the number of your parishioners through your faith and devotion.

With love and prayerful greetings
Archbishop Ghevont,
Primate of Armenians in America

Այս էջը կը ձօնենք Եկեղեցւոյ Հիմնադիրներուն,
բարերարներուն եւ նաեւ ժրաջան անդամներուն,
որոնց ջանքերուն կը պարտինք մեր այսօրուայ
յառաջդիմութիւնը:

Անոնց անձնուէր զոհողութիւնը միշտ վառ պիտի
մնայ մեր սիրտերէն ներս:

Թող օրհնուած ըլլայ անոնց յիշատակը:



This page is dedicated to the
memory of the founding fathers
of our church, its benefactors and
dedicated members to whose hard
work we owe today's achievements.

Their dedicated sacrifice will
always remain alive in our hearts.
Blessed be their memory.

They served their church



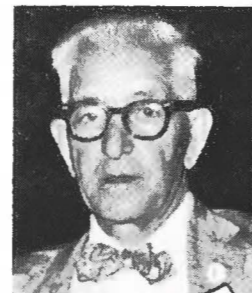
PAUL DISHIAN



DR. H. K. BESHLIAN



DICK DISHIAN



TOOKHMAN BAKALIAN



MUNOOSH SOGHOMONIAN



ARAM TILBIAN



VIRGIN DABAGHIAN



HANNAH SHAHINIAN



MR. & MRS. GARABED DER BOGOSIAN



REV. & MRS. KHOREN MAMIGONIAN

in many, many ways . . .



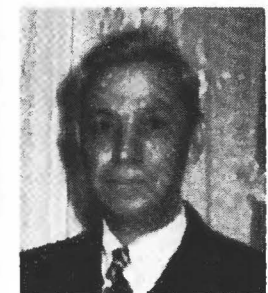
SETRAG AJAMIAN



NAZAR SAHATJIAN



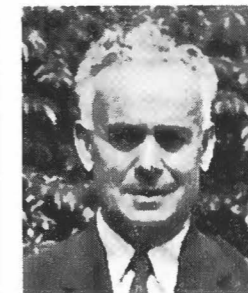
MUGURDICH AKELIAN



ALEC VARTANESIAN



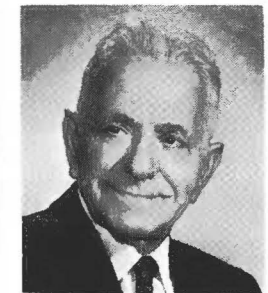
SAHAG AVEDISIAN



MOVSES HACHIGIAN



YEGHISHE CHURCHIAN



MIHRAN NOORIGIAN



HARRY SOHIGIAN



VARTOUHE MAROOTIAN



HAIG DISHIAN



SAM HEKEMIAN

. . . and they set examples



Front row (l. to r.): Helen Mazoujian, Siranoosh Boyajian, Lucy Dabagian, Polly Holopikian. **Middle row:** Charles Pinajian, Mihran Noorigian, Rev. Carnig Hallajian. **Back row:** Hrant Yousufian, (unable to identify), Bared Dabaghian.



Front row (l. to r.): Mary Vartanesian, John Nakashian, Lynn Nakashian, Tony Tungrian, (unable to identify), Very Rev. Vatche Hovsepian, Rev. Carnig Hallajian, John Jerrahian, Charles Pinajian, Bared Dabaghian. **Back row:** Victoria Noorigian, Zaven Marootian, Betty Noorigian, Jack Chekemian, Andrew Tilbian, Andrew Dabbakian, Alex Vartanesian.



(l. to r.): Andrew Tilbian, John Nakashian, Bishop Gomidas Der Stepanian, Andrew Purpuse, Archbishop Mampre Calfayan, Rev. Carnig Hallajian, Zaven Marootian.

for the future generations.



First Sunday School Graduation (1962)
Seated (l. to r.): Yeretzgin Rose Hallajian, Rev. Carnig Hallajian, Arpie Vartanesian. **Middle row:** Adrienne Holopikian, Patricia Pace, Aramine Mazoujian, Nancy Pace. **Back row:** George Marootian, Dawn Dabbakian, Charles Gamarekian.



Washing the Feet Ceremony — March 30, 1961
Seated (l. to r.): Peter Gamgochian, Charles Gamarekian, Bruce Semonian, Wayne Rallo, Drew Dabbakian, George Marootian, Joseph Marootian, Paul Mgerdichian. **Front row:** Rev. Carnig Hallajian, Richard Dabagian.



Parish Council (1961-1962)
Seated (l. to r.): John Nakashian, Andrew Dabbakian, Rev. Carnig Hallajian, Andrew Tilbian, Hrant Yousufian. **Standing (l. to r.):** E. Geo. Dabagian, Tony Tungrian, Edward Torosian, Jack Chekemian, Charles Pinajian, Bared Dabaghian.



Deacon and Choir Members (1965)
Seated (l. to r.): Mihran Noorigian, Charles Pinajian, Rev. Carnig Hallajian, Dikran Tavitian, Hrant Yousufian. **Second row (l. to r.):** Robbyn Dabbakian, Patricia Pace, Helen Mazoujian, Polly Holopikian, Aramine Mazoujian, Nancy Pace, Lucy Dabagian. **Last row (l. to r.):** George Marootian, Peter Gamgochian, Richard Dabagian, Sarkis Jamgochian, Aram Mazoujian.



HOLY CATHEDRAL OF ST. ETCHMIADZIN

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 at 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 really keeps that meaning.

9/22/63

News from Fair Lawn

Break Ground for Armenian Church

Armenian Church Foundation Stones Blessed

Fri., Aug. 20, 1965 Paterson News

\$170,000 Armenian Church
Approved in Fair Lawn ¹⁹⁶³

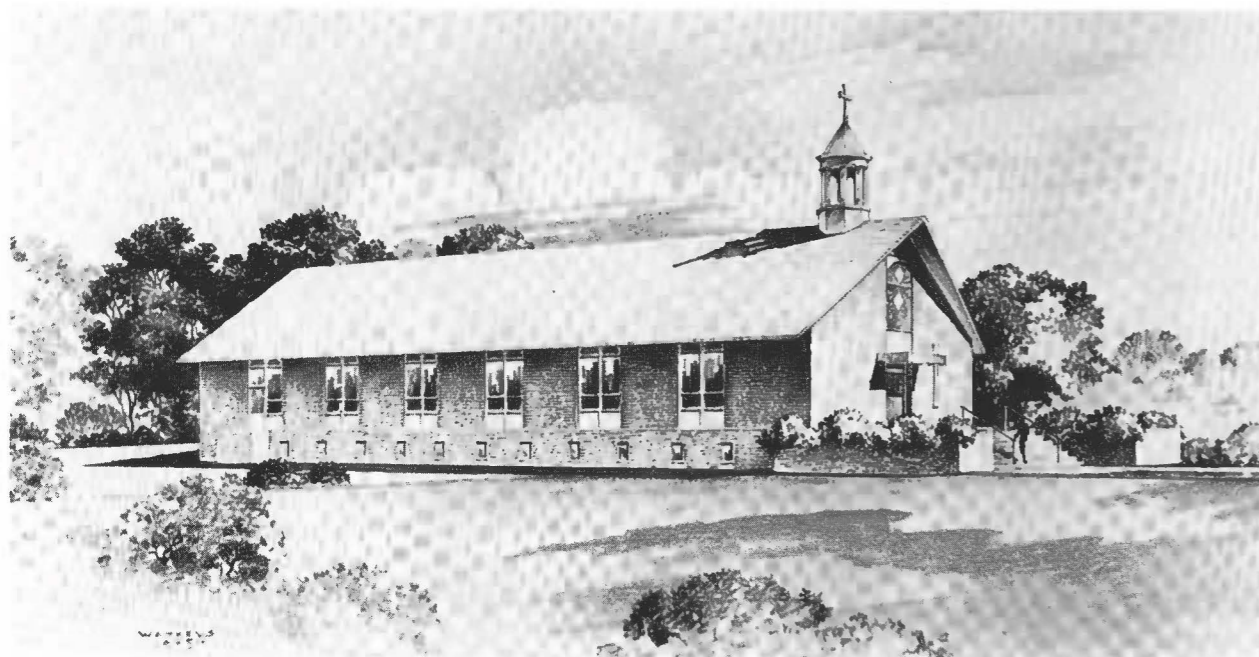
Final Service in Paterson

St. Leon's Armenian Church to Formally Open Doors of New Building on Sept. 19

St. Leon's Church Is Consecrated

Sat., Sept. 18, 1965 Paterson News

Symbolic Knock to Open New Armenian Church



GODFATHERS OF NEWLY CONSECRATED CHURCH

Mihran Kurkjian was the main Godfather of St. Leon Armenian Church in Paterson, New Jersey.

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
E. George Dabagian
Paul Hachigian
David Kalamian
Richard Karamian
George Marootian
Aram Mazoujian

John H. Nakashian
Mihran Noorigian
Charles Pinajian
Harry Sohigian
Martin Tarzian
Andrew S. Tilbian
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!

Blessing of the Corner Stones



Blessing of the Corner Stones.



Parish Council 1965

Seated (l. to r.): Paul Hachigian, John Nakashian, Rev. Carnig Hallajian, Andrew Tilbian, Betty Noorigian-Simonds. **Standing:** Charles Pinajian, James Boyajian, Aram Mazoujian, James Noorigian, John Voskian, E. George Dabagian, John Azarian, John Jerrahian.



Building Committee 1965

(l. to r.): E. George Dabagian, Andrew Tilbian, Archbishop Sion Manoogian, Anthony Purpose, Rev. Carnig Hallajian, Paul Hachigian.



(l. to r.): Richard Dabagian, Rev. Vartan Megherian, Archbishop Sion Manoogian, Rev. Mampre Kouzouian, George Marootian.

and Consecration.



(l. to r.): John Nakashian, John H. Nakashian, Main Godfather, Harry Sohigian.



(l. to r.): Archbishop Sion Manoogian, Rev. Carnig Hallajian, Rev. Arnak Kasparian, Rev. Mampre Kouzouian (partly covered), John Nakashian (partly covered), Charles Pinajian, and the members of the choir.



Consecration of St. Leon Church
(l. to r.): Rev. Mampre Kouzouian, Rev. Vartan Megherian, Archbishop Sion Manoogian, Primate.

LIFE IN GOD'S SERVICE

So then, my brothers, because of God's great mercy to us I appeal to you: Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him. This is the true worship that you should offer. Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God—what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect.

And because of God's gracious gift to me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you should. Instead, be modest in your thinking, and judge yourself according to the amount of faith that God has given you. We have many parts in the one body, and all these parts have different functions. In the same way, though we are many, we are one body in union with Christ, and we are all joined to each other as different parts of one body. So we are to use our different gifts in accordance with the grace that God has given us. If our gift is to speak God's message, we should do it according to the faith that we have; if it is to serve, we should serve; if it is to teach, we should teach; if it is to encourage others, we should do so. Whoever shares with others should do it generously; whoever has authority should work hard; whoever shows kindness to others should do it cheerfully.

Romans 12:1-8



“Were you in Church on this Sunday?”

ST. LEON CHURCH CHOIR

The Church Choir has had its share of prominent members. In the beginning, it was led by Sisak Sargavak Nalbandian, who later was ordained as Khoren Kahana Mamigonian. At the same time, the altar was served by Yeghishe Sargavak Churchian who performed these same functions even before St. Leon Church was officially consecrated. There was also Garabed Der Boghosian who assisted in the services, as did Mardiros Tellalian and Bedros Shemiranian.

Our first Organist was Mrs. Esther Avedisian. She held this position for many years in addition to being Choir Director.

When Mrs. Avedisian retired, Mrs. Isabelle Pabian, a long-time choir member, took over the position as Director and Organist and performed faithfully for a number of years.

Lillian Boyajian Kasparian was our next Organist, who also was our soloist. Lillian left after her marriage to Caspar Kasparian.

Next in line was Mrs. Lucy Dabagian who served with great dedication as Director and Organist for more than 22 years. Assistant organists were Dawn Dabbakian Hourdajian, George Marootian and in later years, Arline Dadekian.

In 1952, Rev. Arten Ashjian, as Pastor of our Parish, was responsible for training a number of male choir members to serve on the Holy Altar. These included such members as James Boyajian, Bared Dabaghian, Jack Hachigian, Sarkis Jamgochian and Charles Pinajian. Within a short time, these Choir members became the first American-born Armenians to be ordained as sub-deacons in our church. Archbishop Tiran Ner-soyan, then Primate of the North American Diocese, performed this ceremony.

All of these members subsequently served on the Altar and in the Choir. Special recognition must be given to Charles Pinajian, who has faithfully and devotedly served on the Altar from that time to the present.

In August of 1965, another generation of American-born Armenians was ordained as acolytes and sub-deacons by Archbishop Sion Manoogian, Primate of the North American Diocese, at that time.

Ordained as acolytes were: Robert Atamian, Drew Dabbakian, Wayne Keshishian Rallo, Aram Mazoujian, Richard Noorigian, Sam Tungrian, Gregory Voskian and Gregory Zara. Ordained as sub-deacons and now eligible to serve on the Altar were Richard Dabagian, Peter Gamgochian and George Marootian.

In 1965, the Parish relocated from Paterson to Fair Lawn, and our growth was stimulated by this move. All of our Pastors have continued to train and prepare our young acolytes for ordination as Tbars.

During April 1977, a record 17 Tbars were ordained by Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, and was said to be the greatest number ordained by him. These, and subsequent Tbars, had been prepared by Der Parea Metjian. Highlights of the most recent ordination of Tbars on September 16, 1984, were featured in this Anniversary Booklet.

During the transition years, beginning with the elevation of Charles Pinajian and Sarkis Soultanian to the rank of full Deacon in 1968, the number of our Altar Servers has continued to grow.

In 1980, Shavarsh Torosian and Hagop Demirdjian were made full Deacons along with Wayne Rallo, a dedicated Acolyte, and George Paroonagian, our capable Choir Director, who became Sub-Deacons. On September 16, 1984, Dr. Berdj Feredjian was ordained a Full Deacon.

Lucille Varjian took over as Church Organist for a short time after Lucy Dabagian left. In 1979, Sirvart Galstian assumed the responsibilities of Church Organist and has since served the Church with great capability.

The Choir's performance has been enhanced additionally with the installation of the new Electronic Pipe Organ, generously donated in memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Sohigian, by Charlotte and Vincent Abajian.

The Choir and Altar Servers continuously work in harmony and maintain a high standard of performance through dedication and faithful attendance.

ORGANISTS AND CHOIR DIRECTORS

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 1929-1934 | Sisak Sargavak Nalbandian* (Khoren Kahana Mamigonian) |
| 1929-1941 | Esther Avedisian ⁰ * |
| 1942-1943 | Margaret Tilbian De Dominicis ⁰ * |
| 1943-194 | Isabel Pabian Lamont ⁰ * |
| 1948-1950 | Esther Avedisian ⁰ * |
| 1950-1955 | Lillian Boyajian Kasparian ⁰ * |
| 1955-1979 | Lucy Dabagian ⁰ * |
| 1979 | Lucille Varjian ⁰ |
| 1980 | Sirvart Galstian ⁰ |
| 1978 | George Paroonagian* |

Assistant Organists:

Arline Dadekian
Dawn Dabbakian-Hourdajian
George Marootian

* Choir Director

⁰ Organist

DEACONS

Sisak Avak Sargavak*
Mihran Churchian*
Dr. Shahan Sevonkian*
Antranig Hallajian
(Carnig Kahana Hallajian)
Dickran Tavitian
Charles Pinajian
Sarkis Soultanian
Shavarsh Torosian
Hagop Demirdjian
Dr. Berdj Feredjian

SUB DEACONS

Garabed Der Boghosian*
Mihran Noorigian
Bared Dabaghian
Dr. Jack Hachigian
Sarkis Jamgochian
George Marootian
Peter Gamgochian
Richard Dabagian
Wayne Rallo
Jeff Zoraian
George Paroonagian

*Deceased

WOMEN'S GUILD

For the Armenians outside their native country, the Armenian Church has always been their spiritual and intellectual center. Here, Armenians maintain the inheritance of their forefathers. This fact has always been recognized from generation to generation.

Being devoted daughters of the Armenian Apostolic Church and inspired by the strong Christian faith of our ancestors, a group of ladies initiated the Ladies Aid Society on September 1, 1928, in Paterson, New Jersey. The charter members were Helen Abajian, Gadar Alijian, Vartouhi Marootian, Munoosh Mazoojian, Nemzoor Sahatjian, Hannah Shahinian, Munoosh Soghomonian, and Sophie Turpan.

In the beginning, the Ladies Aid, later to be called Women's Guild, launched an active membership drive. The result was the formation of a strong and vital group. Over the years, the Ladies Aid has worked to find ways and means to raise money in order to bring into reality the wish of the faithful children of the Armenians in Paterson, namely, to have their own church.

Throughout the years, the membership and activities have increased. The present Women's Guild is involved not only in fund-raising programs, but, also, in many philanthropic works: the education of needy Armenian children abroad, donations to the Shnork Kaloustian Fund for Children, and sponsoring of church youths to St. Nerses Seminary and to St. Vartan Camp. Its 96 members constantly provide moral and financial support for the progress of the church.

Among many of its activities are the annual Bazaar, the Fish and Chips lenten dinner, Charity Food Festival, rummage sales, Chinese auctions, musical programs, guest speakers, the publication of a cook book in 1974, and visitation of the sick and bereaved.

On April 29, 1979, the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Women's Guild, a banquet was held at the Marriot Hotel, Saddle Brook, New Jersey, featuring the celebrated mezzo-soprano, Maro Partamian. Public tribute was made for 50 years of service to Helen Abajian, Maritza Giragosian, Elizabeth Hachigian, Nevart Sahatjian, and Hannah Shahinian, and for 45 years to Arshalous Dishian and Yeranouhi Vartanesian.

CHAIRLADIES

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Munoosh Soghomonian | 1928 |
| Yeranig Dermanjian | 1929 |
| Zarouhi Najimian | 1930 |
| Makrouhi Dishian | 1931 |
| Vartouhi Marootian | 1933 |
| Azniv Ajemian | 1934 |
| Anna Der Boghosian | 1935 |
| Haiganoush Pooshijian | 1936 |
| Hannah Shahinian | 1941 |
| Nevart Sahatjian | 1942 |
| Mary Tilbian | 1943 |
| Elizabeth Hachigian | 1944 |
| Dikranouhi Nakashian | 1945 |
| Makrouhi Dishian | 1946-1947 |
| Elsie Vahanian | 1948-1949 |
| Dikranouhi Nakashian | 1950-1951 |
| Mary Vartanesian | 1952-1953 |
| Sara Vahanian | 1954-1955 |
| Esther Avedisian | 1956-1957 |
| Mary Vartanesian | 1958-1959 |
| Esther Avedisian | 1960-1961 |
| Alice Yazmajian | 1962-1963 |
| Lucy Dabagian | 1964-1966 |
| 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 |

Yesterday . . . Ladies Aid



Ladies Aid Society (1934)

Kneeling (l. to r.): Nevart Sahatjian, Payladzou Vahanian, Mary Tilbian, Nectar Jerrahian, Pergrouhie Simonian, Margaret Semonian, Edna Shahinian, Esther Avedisian, Sarah Vahanian. **Seated (l. to r.):** unable to identify, Eliz Vartanesian, Touman Kardashian, Maritza Baghdadian, Haiganoush Mardirossian, Hannah Shahinian. **1st row standing (l. to r.):** Dikranouhi Nakashian, unable to identify, Maritza Giragosian, Vartouhi Marootian, Archbishop Mampre Calfayan, Azniv Bazazian, Victoria Noorigian, Eliz Hachigian, Victoria Fermanian, Perlanti Danielian, Arshalous Dishian, Azniv Hagopian. **Back row (l. to r.):** Azniv Ajemian, Nemzoor Sahatjian, Fanny Dishian, Makrouhi Dishian, Rose Dishian, Vergine Dabaghian, Yeranouhi Vartanesian, Lucia Kafafian.



St. Leon Ladies Aux. Cooking up Armenian Delicacies for Annual Bazaar Nov. 20-21, 1971

(L. to r.): Maritza Giragosian, Rev. Carnig Hallajian, Mary Tilbian.



50th Anniversary of Women's Guild—Charter Members

(L. to r.): Elizabeth Hachigian, Maritza Giragosian. **Standing:** Yeranouhi Vartanesian, Arshalous Dishian, Nevart Sahatjian. **Missing from photo:** Helen Abajian, Hannah Shahinian.

Today . . . Women's Guild



Ladies Aid Auxiliary (1960) — Seated (l. to r.): Rev. Carnig Hallajian, Esther Avedisian, Ann Marootian, Margaret Semonian, Alice Yazmajian, Victoria Noorigian, Araxie Jerahian, Violet Stambouljian. **Middle row (l. to r.):** Margaret Jerrahian, Maritza Giragosian, Victoria Baghdadian, Arax Azarian, Mary Tilbian, Arshalous Dishian, Helen Mazoujian, Rose Hagopian. **Back row (l. to r.):** Lucy Dabagian, unable to identify, Arpine Nakashian, Grace Pinajian, Polly Holopikian, Bette Noorigian, Arpie Vartanesian, Mary Dabbakian, Mrs. Arakelian, Sirarpi Kazanjian.



Ladies Aid Committee (1965)

(L. to r.): Dovie Tilbian, Maritza Giragosian, Rev. Carnig Hallajian, Lucy Dabagian, Margaret Semonian, Artemis Jesraly.



Ladies Aid Executive Committee (1960)

(Seated l. to r.): Ann Marootian, Esther Avedisian, Rev. Carnig Hallajian, Hannah Shahinian, Araxie Jerahian. **Standing (l. to r.):** Arpie Vartanesian, Margaret Semonian, Alice Yazmajian, Victoria Noorigian.

ST. LEON SUNDAY SCHOOL

The first Sunday School of St. Leon Armenian Church was begun under the guidance of Patriarch Shnork Kaloustian, who at that time was a Hayr Soorp and our church Pastor.

The first class was held on Sunday morning, May 1, 1949, with a teaching staff of two—Mr. Leo Bakalian and Miss Bette Noorigian. Seven children attended and within one month the number had grown to fourteen. Lessons and curriculum were devised through the ingenuity of the teachers. Two years later, Sunday School enrollment had increased to thirty students and three teachers, the third teacher was Yerezgin Mary Ashjian. By 1960, the Sunday School had grown to 48 with a teaching staff of five persons, four substitutes, two supervisors, one pianist and a secretary-treasurer.

At the close of the school year in June 1965, enrollment stood at 86 children, with an average attendance of 70. The staff numbered twenty, with Yerezgin Rose Hallajian, its dynamic and dedicated Superintendent.

Sunday School classes are held every Sunday during the school year from 10:30 to 12 noon. Sessions are divided into three parts—joint worship service from 10:30 to 11 a.m., class sessions from 11 to 11:40 a.m., Assembly or Church attendance until noon.

Special recognition should be given to Rose Najarian for her years of devotion and excellence in teaching our children the Bible and Armenian history during the joint worship service.

The Sunday School conducts a full range of special programs for the children; one of the most pleasing and well-attended is the Annual Christmas Pageant.

In the Summer of 1976, the Vacation Bible School was organized by our Pastor, Rev. Parea Metjian, and has flourished under the able direction of our Yerezgin Angel Metjian.

The Sunday School follows the recommended curriculum of the Council of Religious Education of the Diocese and receives from that Organization all the material taught on the History of Armenia, the Armenian Church—its creeds, sacraments, feast days, holy days, saints and martyrs, etc. Sunday School children receive a well-rounded education of the Holy Bible. Attendance at Armenian Sunday School not only benefits the children religiously, but serves a means of instilling in them their Armenian heritage and makes for many lasting friendships.

Many thanks to all the superintendents and teachers who throughout the years have faithfully served our beloved St. Leon by dedicating their time and talents for the education and betterment of our children.

ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

St. Leon Armenian Church Sunday School started under pastorship of Shnork Vartabed, now Patriarch of Constantinople Archbishop Kaloustian, in May 1949.

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 1949-1960 | Leo Bakalian |
| 1949-1953 | Bette Noorigian-Simonds |
| 1957-1960 | Bette Noorigian-Simonds |
| 1960-1966 | Yerezgin Rose Hallajian |
| 1967-1971 | Ann Dishian Pace & Elsie Bedrosian |
| 1971-1972 | Yerezgin Rose Hallajian & Ann Dishian Pace |
| 1972-1973 | Ann Dishian Pace & George Marootian |
| 1973-1974 | Leon Hojegian |
| 1975-1977 | Sarkis Bedevian |
| 1978-1980 | Leon Hojegian & Rosalie Hojegian |
| 1980-1981 | Berjouhi Feredjian |
| 1981-1983 | Barbara Hovsepian |
| 1983- | Berjouhi Feredjian |

ST. LEON ARMENIAN SCHOOL

Fifty years ago the Armenian School began at St. Leon.

Sponsoring an Armenian School had always been a wish of the Armenians in the Paterson area. It was first formed prior to the purchase of the Church in Paterson. Initially, classes were held in private homes. On April 22, 1934, the Parish Council appointed the first church-sponsored Armenian School Committee. Members of this Committee were: Megerdich Akellian, Manoog Jamgochian, Dicran Berberian, Mardiros Hatchigian and Sarkis Filian.

Classes were held in Tourian Hall, under the supervision of Mrs. Manooshag Telalian, and met three times a week from 4 to 6 p.m. Committee members worked hard to secure financial support for the school.

The school had many capable and dedicated teachers. Mrs. Nevart Hajian (Bakalian), during her teaching years, had more than thirty students in her classes. She terminated her teaching when she was married. Mr. A. Hovasapian and Mrs. Vartanoosh Paboojian followed as teachers and Yeretzgin Jelalian became supervisor of the School.

After a lapse of several years, the Armenian School was reinstated by Rev. Carnig Hallajian and the Parish Council. Der Carnig was the Superintendent, and the teachers were directly responsible to him. Classes grew and the Armenian School flourished from 1958-1965, at which time, Vahram Varjabedian became the Principal. Mr. Varjabedian's position was succeeded by Mrs. Hermine Menakian and this year by Ms. Verkin Marashian, who is our present Principal.

The Armenian School today is divided into six levels—kindergarten through sixth grade. Areas of concentration include: language, history, song and dance.

In 1984, a "Conversation Course" was initiated. Each child is responsible for fifteen minutes of Armenian conversation every week.

The School's main fund raiser is its Annual Valentine Dance. The year-end Annual Hantess has been a tradition for many years and gives the children an opportunity to perform their Armenian accomplishments.

Enrollment is up to 55 students, who are learning their mother tongue, Armenian history and songs—all designed to maintain our Armenian heritage.

ST. LEON ARMENIAN SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

(In chronological order):

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Manooshag Tellalian and Nevart Bakalian Hajian | 1930-1939 |
| Mr. A. Hovasapian | 1940-1941 |
| Post War Years: | |
| Bishop Shnork Kaloustian Vartanoush Paboojian Yeretzgin Jelalian | |
| Rev. Carnig Hallajian | 1958-1965 |
| Vahram Varjabedian Hermine Menakian Verkine Marashian | |



Sunday School and



Sunday School Teachers' Retreat
(L. to r.): Leo Bakalian, Superintendent; Margaret Semonian, Arpie Vartanesian, Mary Dabbakian, Barry Dabaghian, *Unable to identify* (Z), Elsie Gamarekian.



Sunday School Teachers

Seated (l. to r.): Edward Azarian, Ann Pace, Yeretzgin Rose Hallajian, Superintendent; Mary Noorigian, Mary Dabbakian. **Standing:** Margaret Keshishian (Rallo), Edna Tungrian, Emerald Noorigian, Arpie Vartanesian, Mary Garmirian, Rose Mardirossian, Elsie Bedrosian, Marion Shahinian.



Armenian School



Armenian School (1965)



Sunday School Graduation Class (1968)



Armenian School Hantess

(L. to r.): Taline Jessourian, Lorraine Varjabedian, Raffi Jessourian.



"Our Little Angels" Christmas Pageant



Armenian School Hantess



Special Committee (for Burning of Mortgage)

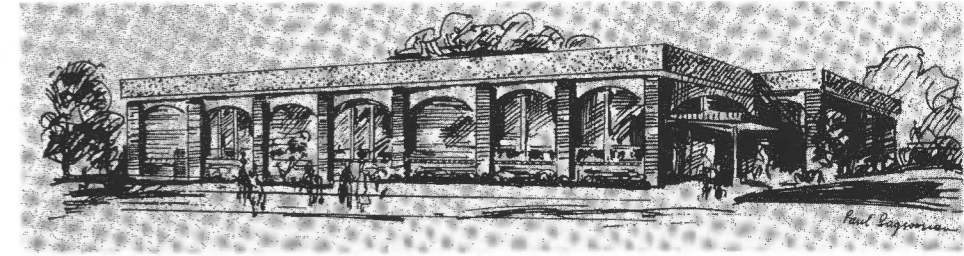
Seated (l. to r.): Sarkis Bedevian, Rev. Parea Metjian, Sarkis Soultanian. **Standing:** Vahram Varjabedian, Dovie Tilbian, Sarkis Gabrellian, Zaven Dadekian, Charles Pinajian. **Missing from photo:** Noubar Jessourian, Liaison Parish Council.



Community Center Management Committee

Seated (l. to r.): Rex Kachigian, Chairman; Rev. Parea Metjian, Anne Kachigian. **Standing:** Berjuhi Varjabedian, John Voskian, Grace Pinajian, Alfred Voskian, Siran Gabrellian. **Missing from photo:** Martin Kapoian.

St. Leon Armenian Church Community Center



12-61 Saddle River Road • Fair Lawn, New Jersey 07410

REV. PAREE METJIAN, *Pastor*

(201) 791-2862

Dear Parishioners and Friends:

I am proud to be a part of this Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration. The St. Leon parish has been blessed over the years with true spiritual guidance, faithful and hardworking parishioners, and leadership that has consistently demonstrated sound financial planning.

In keeping with this tradition the Parish Council, following the Dedication of the Community Center and Educational Wing in November of 1981, appointed the Special Committee (for payment of the mortgage). The duties of the Special Committee were to collect the pledges and memorial donations, and to undertake fund raising projects to pay the mortgage and other loans.

During the past three years five major fund raising projects were undertaken, the proceeds of which, were applied towards pre-paying the mortgage which greatly minimized the interest due.

I am happy to announce that the total mortgage in the amount of \$250,000 payable to United Jersey Bank has been paid in full and we all can proudly "Burn the Mortgage" on this Golden Anniversary Celebration.

I sincerely thank the members of the Special Committee who unselfishly gave their very best efforts to this responsibility, and I also thank the parishioners of St. Leon who did their fair share. To date 85 per cent of the pledges that were made beginning in 1980 have been paid before the original five year projection, and I am confident that the remaining pledges will be collected before the end of 1985. The collection of the outstanding pledges will discharge the balance of our other loans.

Together we have met the challenge. God bless you all!

Sincerely,

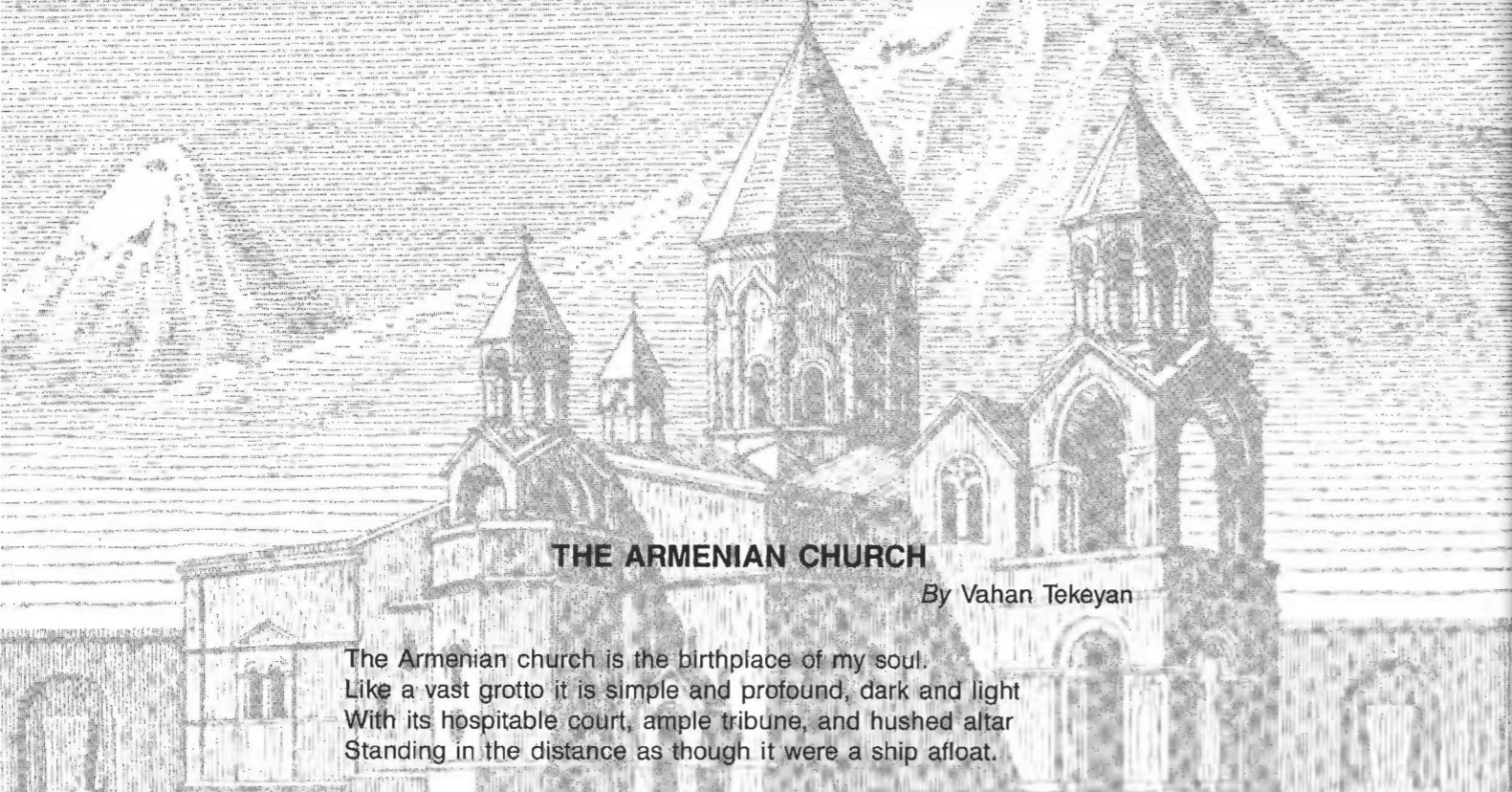
Sarkis Bedevian

Sarkis Bedevian, Chairman
Special Committee

Our Congratulations to St. Leon
Armenian Church on the
50th Anniversary

and

Helen Abajian, one of the charter
members of St. Leon's parish.
Sincerely, Abajian Family



THE ARMENIAN CHURCH

By Vahan Tekeyan

The Armenian church is the birthplace of my soul.
Like a vast grotto it is simple and profound, dark and light
With its hospitable court, ample tribune, and hushed altar
Standing in the distance as though it were a ship afloat.

The Armenian Church I see with my eyes closed.
I breathe and hear it through the clouds of incense
Which rise towards the feet of the infant Jesus,
And through the fervent prayers vibrating its walls.

The Armenian Church is the mighty fortress of my forefather's faith.
Raised by them from the earth stone by stone.
And descended from heaven, a dewdrop and a cloud at a time.
In it they unfolded themselves peacefully and humbly.

The Armenian Church is a great embroidered tapestry
Behind which the Lord descends into the chalice, and
Before which all my people stand with bowed heads
To commune with the past through life-giving bread and wine.

The Armenian church is a peaceful haven across turbulent seas.
It is fire and light in the cold of night;
It is shady forest in the scorching midday sun
Where lilies bloom by the River of Hymns.

The Armenian Church, beneath every stone in its floor.
Holds a secret passage leading up to Heaven.

The Armenian Church is the shining armor of Armenia's soul and body.
Her crosses rise to protect her;
Her bells ring forth and her song is always Victory.



PSALM 100

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.
Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his
presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he
is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we
ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his
pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto
him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his
mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all
generations.

In Memory of
Megerdich and Baidzar Bedevian
Sarkis, Ruth, Peter, Debra and Peggy Bedevian

In Honor of
Karnig and Alice Shahbazian

Mr. and Mrs. E. George Dabagian

PRAYER FOR AN ACOLYTE

Almighty God, in every age you have called out young men and women to be your faithful servants. We believe you have called these thy servants to the "Order of Acolyte". Grant unto each a clear vision of your call and empower them to do your will, to fulfill the ministry assigned to them. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.



Acolytes

Front row (l. to r.): Haroute Moomdjian, Deacon Berdj Feredjian, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Rev. Parea Metjian, Ara Metjian. **Middle row:** Peggy Bedevian, Nora Tossounian, Nadya Cilingiryan, Sarita Melkon, Leslie Boghosian, Aimee Capizzi, Steven Chagachbanian. **Back row:** Christopher Demirdjian, Armen Varjabedian, Hagop Cilingiryan, Edward Kalpagian, Darryl Vartabedian, Gregg Najarian.

With our compliments
Sarkis, Siran and Mark Gabrellian



ORDINATION: BLESSING OF THE VEIL SERVICE: ST. LEON PARISH

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian celebrated the sacrament of Ordination recently, granting 4 minor orders to 7 young men and elevating Dr. Berdj Feredjian to deacon, which will allow him to present the chalice to the celebrant during liturgy. He becomes the fifth deacon to serve the St. Leon Church regularly. In the same ceremonies His Eminence blessed the veils of 6 girls.

Reverend Parea Metjian personally instructed the young people in an intensive 8 week program which covered Responsibilities of the Acolyte, Sacraments, Divine Liturgy and Sharagans, Armenian Church History, and selected Bible passages. Each candidate passed a comprehensive test and underwent a private interview with the pastor. Part of the requirements also included a written essay on the topic, "Serving God and His Church."

In Memory of Yerezgin Rose Hallajian

“...sing psalms, hymns and sacred songs; sing to God with thanksgiving in your hearts.” Colossians 3:16



Choir (Executive Committee) and Deacons

Seated (l. to r.): Charles Pinajian, Chairman and Acting Choir Director; Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Rev. Paree Metjian. **Middle row:** Sarkis Soultanian, Emerald Noorigian, Rose Kirian, Treasurer; Helen Mazoujian, Librarian; Blanda Yilanjian, Corresponding Secretary; Hagop Demirdjian, Shavarsh Torosian. **Back row:** Berdj Feredjian, Wayne Rallo.

Choir Members: Manuk Capan, Arline Dadekian, Leon Dourgarian, Sirvart Galstian, Organist; Araxie Gamgochian, Florence Gulkasian, Anita Jessourian, Gabriel Kaprelian, Mirjan Kirian, Satenig Loughhead, Aram Mazoujian, Yerezgin Angel Metjian, Artie Nercessian, Shake McMahon, George Paroonagian, Choir Director; Lynn Pinajian, Takouhy Soultanian, Marge Tfank, Recording Secretary.

“Honor thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.” Exodus 20:12



Senior Citizens (Executive Committee)

Seated (l. to r.): Naomi Hallajian, Rev. Paree Metjian, Rose Anton. **Standing:** Rose Chookazian, Zohra Zamgochian.

Missing from photo: President, Manuk Capan; Secretary, Elsie Donigian; Treasurer, Hagop Dellakian.

Members: Helen Abajian, Sirvart Arpajian, Jerry Bagdasarian, Shoushan Barmakian, Agnes and Tish Basmadjian, Hagop Basralian, Lucy and Joseph Bedrosian, Arpine and Avedis Bonjoukian, Arax and Haig Bostanjian, Hermine Buchakian, Agnes Boudoughian, Mary Boyadjian, Siranoush and Nazaret Boyajian, Manoog Boyajian, Margrit Chaputian, Vartan Coloian, Anahid and Mesrob Der Bedrosian, Satenig Dellakian, Dikranuhi Derderian, Mampre Der Tomasian, Arshalous Dishian, Arsenick and George Donigian, Araksi and Krikor Gemjian, Maritza Giragosian, Yerezgin Zarouhi Jelalian, Vartan Jerahian, Arax Jerrahian, Ardemis and Peter Jesraly, Satenig and Nishan Johnson Parantzem Kalajian, Rebecca and Diran Kalfaian, Lillian Kandanian, Nemzur Kaprielyan, Noemie Kasarjian, Ovsanna Keshishian, Satenig Kevonian, Manishak Kougasian, Areknaz Margosian, Helen and Aram Mazoujian, Asdkhig Najarian, Izabel Nalbandian, Virginia and John Ohnigian, Harry Sahagian, Ardem Serabian, Sirvart and Pappgen Simonian, Mary Stepanian, Siranoush Takooshian, Sofia and Kevork Torosian, Armenoohi Turpanian, Ovsanna and John Vezirian, Arax and Haig Yeterian, Nevart Yilanjian.

It is with great pride that we congratulate our sister parish of St. Leon for 50 years of growth from the depths of the Depression. As we embark upon the same road to build a Church and community, your success is a source of inspiration as to what can be accomplished with love, dedication and hard work.
St. James Armenian Church of Westchester

In Memory of Harry H. Nakashian
Who went to his eternal rest
On October 12, 1959.

*"Give her credit for all she does. She deserves the respect of everyone."
Proverbs 31:31*



Women's Guild

Seated (l. to r.): Edna Tungrian, Co-Chairlady; Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Rev. Parea Metjian. **Standing:** Dorothy Karamian, Liaison; Ann Marootian, Treasurer; Seta Jessourian, Vice-Chairlady; Ruth Bedevian, Corresponding Secretary; Katherine Ohnikian, Assistant Treasurer; Margaret Semonian, Recording Secretary.

Missing from picture: Florence Grunstra, Co-Chairlady; Olga Chongoushian, Advisor.

Members: Helen Abajian, Shamena Afarian, Anna Aginian, Katherine Amerkanian, Anne Bchakjian, Lucy Bedrosian, Seta Boudoughian, Siranoush Boyajian, Shakae Bozian, Lucy Chagachbanian, Rose Chookazian, Lucy Dabagian, Mary Dabbakian, Arline Dadekian, Marie Dellakian, Charlotte Dishian, Elsie Donigian, Rose Donigian, Siran Gabrellian, Sirvart Galstian, Araxie Gamgochian, Maritza Giragosian, Florence Grunstra, Florence Gulkasian, Elizabeth Hachigian, Helen Haig, Naomi Hallajian, Janet Hamalian, Margaret Hartunian, Nevert Hartunian, Arpine Holopikian, Virginia Holopikian, Dawn Hourdajian, Barbara Hovsepien, Mary Huller, Margaret Jerrahian, Ardemis Jesraly, Maggy Jesraly, Anita Jessourian, Satenig Johnson, Anne Kachigian, Evelyn Kalpagian, Agnes Kapoian, Isabel Kaprielian, Dorothy Karamian, Rose Kirian, Rose Koseyan, Angel Kouchoukian, Shoushik Kouchoukian, Satenig Loughead, Anne Marootian, Helen Mazoujian, Violet Mazoujian, Yeretzgin Angel Metjian, Araxy Moumdjian, Rose Najarian (Glen Rock), Rose Najarian (Hillsdale), Emerald Noorigian, Mary Noorigian, Marion Norbe, Lucy O'Brien, Regina Ohanyan, Evelyn Orr, Grace Pinajian, Deana Sevajian, Carol Soojian, Takouhy Soutanian, Violet Stamboulian, Anne Takvorian, Emma Tarakajian, Helen Tarzian, Connie Tashjian, Manoushag Telfeoglu, Lucy Terzian, Marge Tfrank, Dovie Tilbian, Gloria Tomasian, Shoushan Tombalakian, Araxie Torosian, Mary Torosian, Varsen Torosian, Eliz Tossounian, Edna Tungrian, Berjouhi Varjabedian, Arpie Vartanesian, Ovsanna Vezirian, Agnes Voskian, Violet Voskian, Alice Yazmajian, Blanda Yilanjian, Gloria Zoraian.

*"Let your father and mother be proud of you; give your mother that happiness."
Proverbs 23:25*



Care and Share

Seated (l. to r.): Linda Capizzi, Group Leader; Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Rev. Parea Metjian. **Standing:** Dorothy Karamian, Liaison; Regina Ohanyan, Advisor; Mary Ann Mozian, Jo-Ann Tashjian, Dawn Hourdajian, Ruth Bedevian, Publicity Director.

Members: Nancy Burdman, Nancy Goree, Noreen Hajinlian, Carol Hepsen, Donna Hortian, Barbara Hovsepien, Vivian Hovsepien, Maggie Jesraly, Seta Kurkeiyan.

"It is the Lord who gives wisdom: from him comes knowledge and understanding." Proverbs 2:6



Sunday School

Seated (l. to r.): Rex Kachigian, Berjouhi Feredjian, Superintendent; Rev. Paree Metjian, Director; Vazken Ohanyan, Liaison; Eliz Tossounian, Assistant Superintendent. **Middle row:** Yerezgin Angel, Assembly Coordinator; Carol Ashbahian, Kathy Feredjian, Varsen Torosian, Ara Hourdajian, Barbara Hovsepian, Rosalie Hojegian, Debbie Bedevian, Barbara Boghosian, Corresponding Secretary. **Back row:** Arax Moomdjian, Leon Hojegian, Connie Tashjian, Garineh Dovletian.

Missing from photo: Susan Dadekian, Virginia Hachadourian, Treasurer; Donna Hortian, Christmas Pageant Coordinator; Margie Kachigian, Rose Najarian, Assembly Coordinator; Mary Pazarjian, Michell Sabonjian.

Substitutes: Susan Chagachbanian, Vicky Demirdjian, Andrea Halejian, Janet Hamalian, Suzanne Jerrahian, Mary Ann Mozian.

"Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6



Armenian School

Seated (l. to r.): Marie Dellakian, Advisor; Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Rev. Paree Metjian. **Standing:** Varsen Torosian, Advisor; Barbara Boghosian, Treasurer; Rose Najarian, Chairperson; MaryAnn Mozian, Corresponding Secretary; Donna Siroonian, Publicity, Evelyn Kalpagian, Co-Chairperson; Zabel Kaprielian, Costumes and Properties.

Missing from picture: Marion Bandazian, Recording Secretary; Roland Hepsen, Liaison; Heggie Shegerian, Advisor; Gloria Zoraian, Advisor.

Teachers: Rose Ann Arzooonian, Sossy Bemchajekian, Alice and Seta Boudoughian, Nadya Cilingiryan, Barbara Hovsepian, Rosine Hovsepian, Vahe Hovsepian, Anais Kradjian, Verkine Marashian, Principal; Yerezgin Angel Metjian, Syla Mikaelian, Araxie Moundjian, Blanda and Karin Yilanjian.

Mr. and Mrs. Zaven Dadekian and Family

In Memory of my loved ones
Avedis Dishian, Michael and Rose Keledjian
Veronica and Missak Sandekian
Dikranoohi and Menas Chepikian
Mrs. Charlotte A. Dishian

To the founding spirit and dedication of
Moses and Elizabeth Hachigian
Paul and Jack Hachigian

Mr. and Mrs. Sebouh Jessourian
and
Mr. and Mrs. Noubar Jessourian

“ . . Do your best to add goodness to your faith; to your goodness add knowledge.” II Peter 1:5



A.C.Y.O.A.

Seated (l. to r.): Karin Yilanjian, Aimee Capizzi, Jeannine Mozian, Tamar Metjian, Peggy Bedevian, Leslie Boghosian. **Middle row:** Majda Pazarcian, Nora Tossounian, Talene Kradjian, Vice Chairman; Sevan Markarian, Edward Kalpagian, Chairman; Diane Kradjian, Barkev Tookmanian, Jan Royland, Advisor. **Back row:** Barbara Royland, Advisor; Alice Boudoughian, Secretary; Debbie Bedevian, Publicity; Chris Demirdjian, Gregg Najarian, Treasurer; Rev. Paree Metjian, Joseph Tashjian, Steven Chagachbanian, Armen Varjabedian, Gregg Tookmanian, Vahram Varjabedian, Liaison.

Missing from photo: Susan Avdoian, Tara Bajakian, Karen Dabaghian, Hasmig Dellakian, Tania Gulekjian, John Hamalian, Greg Kaprelian, Sarita Melkon, John Najarian, Jonathan Najarian, Masis Pazarcian, Danielle Tashjian, Darryl Vartabedian, Aret Yilanjian.

“The one thing I do, is to forget what is behind me and do my best to reach what is ahead. So I run straight toward the goal in order to win the prize.” Philipians 3:14



Sr. Boys Basketball

Front row (l. to r.): Armen Varjabedian, Richard Soutanian, Christopher Demirdjian, Joseph Tashjian, Edward Kalpagian. **Back row:** Roger Voskian, Steven Chagachbanian, Noubar Jessourian, Mark Loughead, George Kechejian, Keith Henanian, Arthur Ohnikian, Robert Ohnikian, Coach; Rev. Paree Metjian.



Girls Basketball Team

Seated (l. to r.): Peggy Bedevian, Alice Boudoughian, Deidre Ekmekjian, Hasmig Dellakian. **Middle row:** Danielle Tashjian, Leslie Boghosian, Tamar Metjian. **Back row:** Rev. Paree Metjian, Arthur Ohnikian, George Kechejian, Coach.

Marquis Jewelers Inc.
Avedis and Garo Caparyan

Grace and Charles Pinajian

Vance and Elizabeth (Noorigian) Simonds

In Memory of our Parents
Garabed and Armenouhie Soutanian
Mr. and Mrs. Sarkis Soutanian and Family
Mr. and Mrs. David Soutanian

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Happy 50th Anniversary
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In Memory of mother Susie Dabag and
Husband William Grunstra
Florence L. Grunstra
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Varjabedian
Mrs. Zabelle Dabbakian Keil
In Memory of our beloved parents
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Vartanesian
Mr. and Mrs. Mirjan Kirian and Family
Mr. and Mrs. Alfred A. Voskian
Dr. and Mrs. Ashod N. Krikoryan

Bronze Sponsors

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
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| In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. N. Gazarian Mr. and Mrs. Nazareth Boyajian | Mrs. G. Mardirossian |
| Mrs. Anne Casparian | Mrs. Violet Mazoutjian |
| Mr. and Mrs. Haig Chongoushian | Mr. and Mrs. Antoine Moumdjian |
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| Mr. and Mrs. John Hamalian | Edward and Varsen Torosian |
| In Loving Memory of Nishan Vezirian John, Vivian, Jon Vartan and Joy Hovsepian | Mr. and Mrs. Shavarsh Torosian |
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| Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Jesraly | Vahanian Family |
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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!

"Only he who remains firm in and loyal to his vision and future ascends heights in life, sharing with thousands of others his true joy acquired with toil. He only reaches that height who is full of faith. It is only in religion that one learns to be humble, patient and understanding even in greatness."

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian

