



DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA,  
ԱՌԱՋՆՈՐԴՈՒԹԻՒՆ ՀԱՅՈՑ ԱՄԵՐԻԿԱՅԻ ԱՐԵՒԵԼԵԱՆ ԹԵՄԻ

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate

Թի 2431  
Օգոստոս 30, 1996

Նորին Սուրբ Օծութիւն  
Տէր Տէր Գարեգին Առաջին  
Ծայրագոյն Պատրիարք եւ Կաթողիկոս Ամենայն Հայոց  
Մայր Աթոռ Սուրբ Էջմիածին

Վեհափառ Տէր,

Ճէրլոն Նիւ Ճըրզիի Սրբոց Ղեւոնդեանց Եկեղեցիի վերանորոգման եւ հայկական ճարտարապետական ոճով նոր գմբէթի մը յաւելումի աշխատանքները աւարտեցան, եւ պաշտօնական հանդիսութեամբ մը եկեղեցոյ վերաբացման արարողութիւնը տեղի պիտի ունենայ Նոյեմբեր 17-ին:

Եկեղեցոյ Հոգևոր Հովին ու Ծխական Խորհուրդը որոշած են այս առթիւ հրատարակել յուշամատեան մը, եւ փափաք յայտնած են դիմել Ձերոյ Սրբութեան՝ որպէս զի բարի ըլլաք Օրհնութեան Գիր մը շնորհել՝ յուշամատեանին մէջ տպագրուելու համար:

Հաճեցէք կցեալ գտնել Սրբոց Ղեւոնդեանց Եկեղեցոյ պատմութեան ամփոփ կէտերը:

Մեծապէս շնորհակալ պիտի ըլլամ եթէ բարեհաճիք ընթացք տալ ներկայացուած խնդրանքին:

Մատչելով ի համբոյր Ձերոյ Վեհափառութեան Ա. Աջոյն  
Խոնարհաբար

Խաժակ Արք. Պարսամեան  
Առաջնորդ

## History of St. Leon Armenian Church in Fair Lawn.

### An Outline

- 1890 - 1900      Armenians, fleeing the persecutions of the Ottomans, settled in Paterson, New Jersey, the busy hub of the silk weaving industry.
- 1900 - 1932      Armenians of Paterson rented non-Armenian sanctuaries for occasional church services and sacraments celebrated by visiting clergy.
- 1932              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. Armenians worshipped in this sanctuary for the next 33 years
- 1958              Three acres of land were purchased on Saddle River Road in Fair Lawn, with the intention of building a new Armenian church and community center.
- 1965              Construction of the church building in Fair Lawn began in March and was completed in September 19. Archbishop Sion Manoogian, then Primate, consecrated the newly built St. Leon Armenian Church in Fair Lawn.
- 1980              The much needed community center was built. The center contains two halls. The Abajian Hall with its modern facilities and a capacity of 350 seats is on the main floor, and the Dadekian Hall, with a capacity of 75 seats on the second floor. The building also hosts the ACYOA room and recently build Computer Information Center room.
- 1932 - 1993      Since then the Parish continued to grow under the care and supervision of many capable pastors including Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Kavookjian, V. Rev. Fr. Mampre Calfayan (Primate), Rev. Fr. Vahan Jelalian, V. Rev. Fr. Shnork Kaloustian (Patriarch), Rev. Fr. Arten Ashjian, Rev. Fr. Vartan Der Assadourian, Rev. Fr. Carnig Hallajian, Rev. Fr. Parea Metjian, Rev. Fr. Arshen Aivazian.
- 1993 -              Fr. Vahan Hovhanessian was assigned by His Eminence Abp. Khajag Barsamian, Primate, as the Pastor of St. Leon Church. During his pastorship the membership of the parish grew to 300 members. Consequently, the Parish participation in the Diocesan Assembly was increased to three delegates. New religious and educational programs

were planned and successfully executed. This includes the Deacons' Training program which entered its fourth year, resulting in eleven young altar servers who continue meeting every Friday to learn the liturgy of the Armenian Church and participate in the Church services. The programs also include the Bible Study Group, the Discussion Group, educational lectures and mini courses including courses in liturgy and conversational Armenian language.

• 1995 -

Fr. Vahan assigned a committee of computer engineers to develop a computer Bulletin Board and Information Center. These efforts were culminated in the installation and operation of the first Armenian parish computer information center. The center will serve as Internet service-provider to Armenians in the area, will post a full WWW page of information about the Armenian Church and Armenians in America and around the world. It will also serve as an active forum for Armenians and their friends to communicate and keep in touch around the world.