

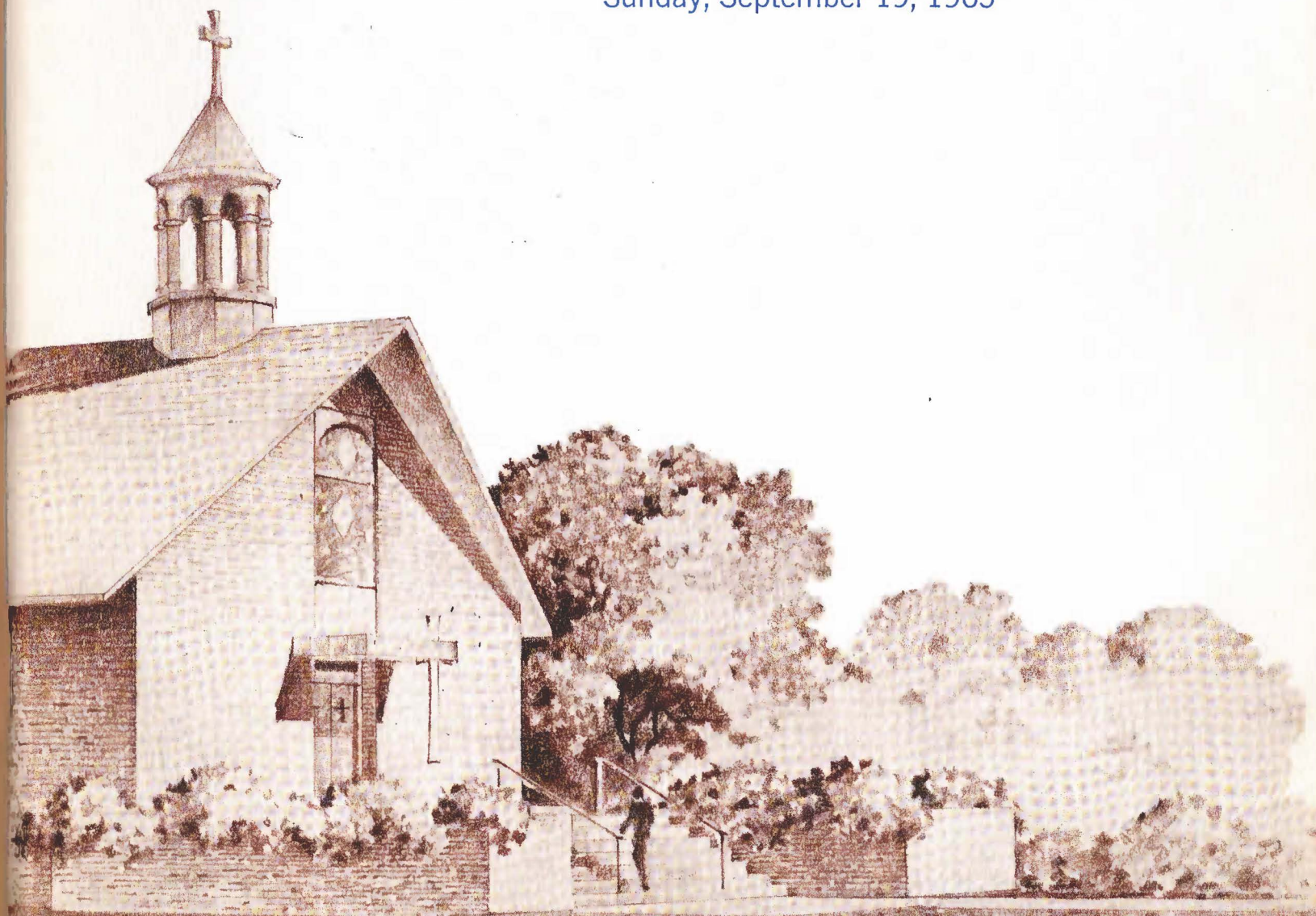
*Consecration**

of

Saint Leon's Armenian Church

FAIR LAWN, NEW JERSEY

Sunday, September 19, 1965



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of

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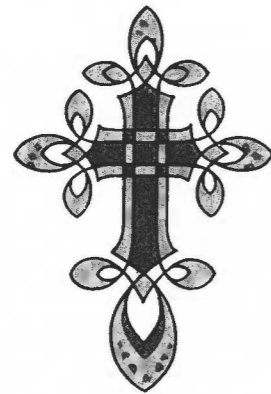
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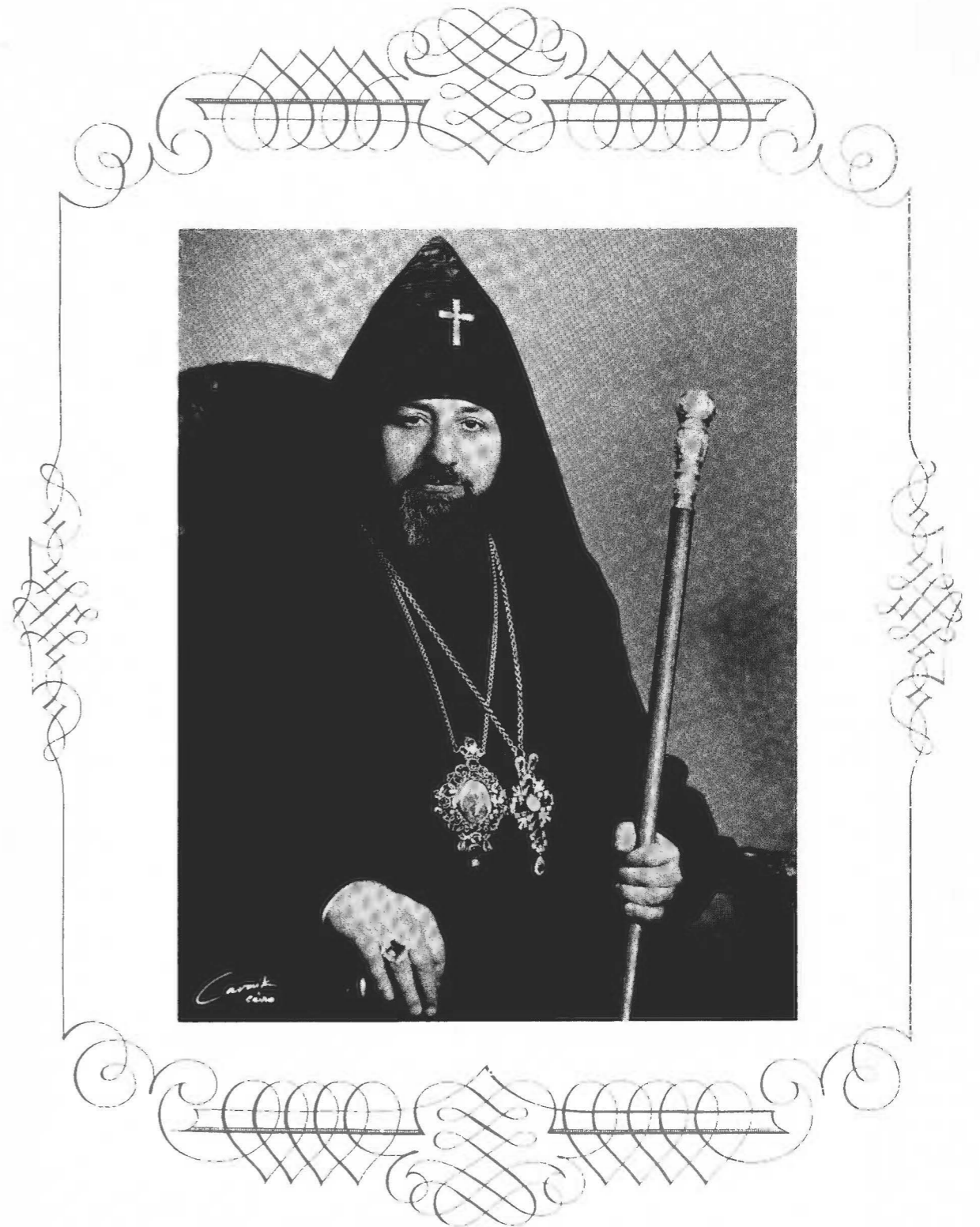
Acknowledgement

From its inception to the completion of the new church edifice . . . its planning, execution and finally the consecration of the church, required the self-sacrificing and untiring efforts of many members of our parish. Everyone, in some capacity or other, participated in the realization of this project. To name all individually would fill pages. I, therefore, would like to extend and express my heartiest thanks and gratitude to everyone especially to my Executive Building Committee, who, with their constant devotion, personal sacrifices, valuable talents, and generous contributions have enabled the completion and consecration of St. Leon's Armenian Church. We should all take pride of our accomplishment.

E. GEORGE DABAGIAN
General Chairman
Building Committee

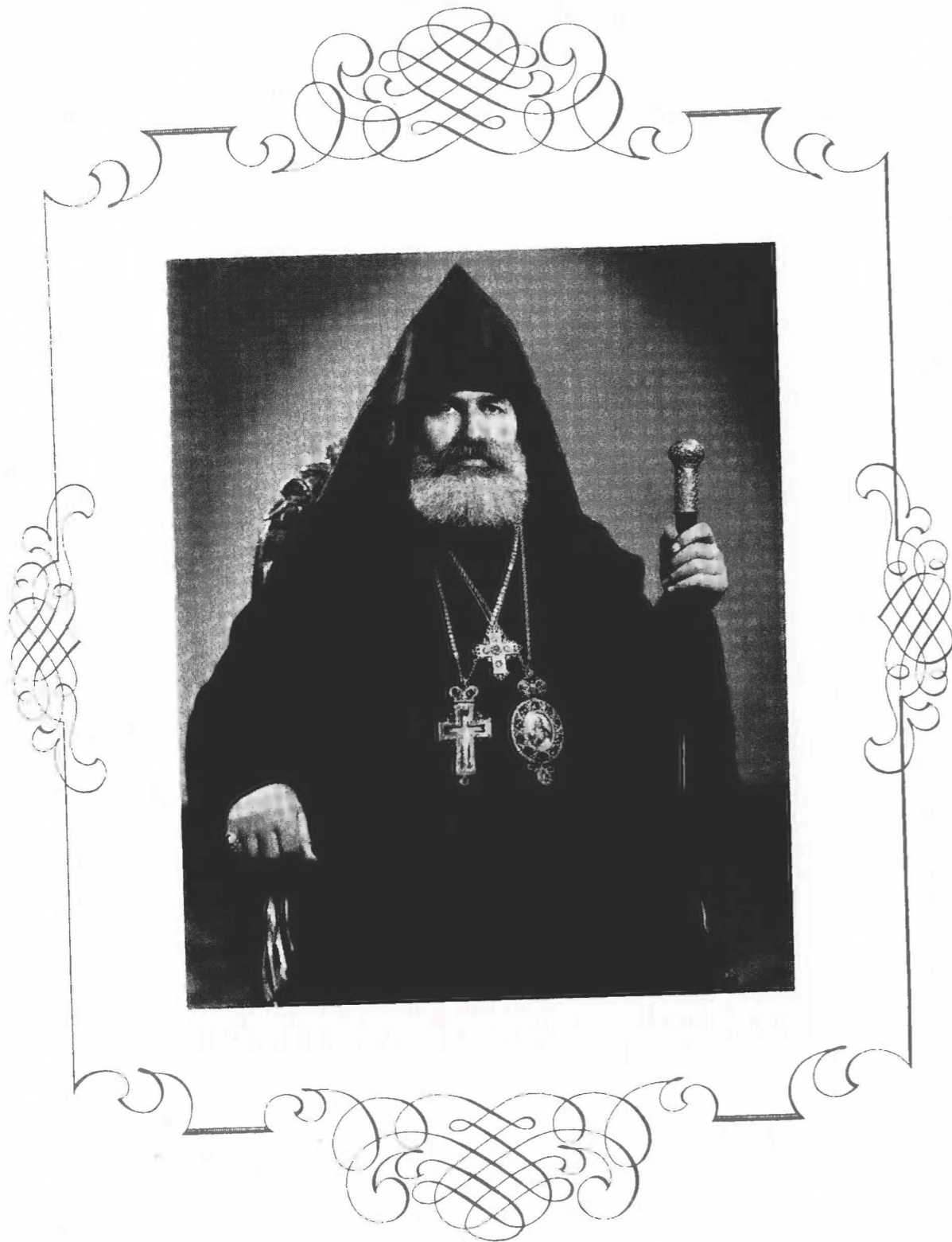


Compliments of
State Tire & Supply Co., Fair Lawn, N. J.



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

Compliments of
Lucy, George, Ricky, Donna and Linda Dabagian



His Eminence, Archbishop Schnork Kaloustian

Patriarch of Constantinople
Former pastor of our church

Compliments of
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony H. Purpuse — Patricia and Richard

ՊԱՏՐԻԱՐԿԱՐԱՆ ՀԱՅՈՑ

ԳՈՒՄԳԱՐՈՒ - ԻՍՔԱՆՊՈՒԼ

Համար - 58-436.



Իրանպուլ, 9 Յուլիս 1965.

Հեռագրային: 224970

Արժանապատիւ
Տ. Պատնիկ ԲՆՅ. Հալիաճեան
Հոգեւոր Հովիւ Հայոց Բիթլիսի
Եւ շրջակայից
Ֆէր-Լիւն

Սիրեցեալ Տ. Պատնիկ,

Հաճոյքով ստացայ Ձեր Յուլիս 2, 1965 թուակիր գրութիւնը, որով կ'աւետէիք նոր եկեղեցիի մը շինութիւնը Ֆէր - Լովնի մէջ:

Բիթլիսի Համայնքը մասնաւոր տեղ ունի մեր սրտին եւ մեր զգացումներուն մէջ, եղած ըլլալով այն առաջին եկեղեցին ուրկէ սկսան Ամերիկայի մեր Հովուական պաշտօնավարութիւնները: Ուստի մեծապէս ուրախացանք նաեւ մենք իմանալով որ այս պատուական Համայնքը այսօրեւրջս իրականացնելու վրայ է իր տարիներու երազը:

Եթէ ամէն ինչ բնականոն ընթանայ մենք ծրագրած ենք, կամօքն Աստուծոյ, Ամերիկայ գտնուիլ Սեպտ. 10-ին: Ասիկա կ'ընաք ընդունիլ իբրեւ պաշտօնական Հաղորդագրում: Ուստի ինձի Համար մեծ երջանկութիւն պիտի ըլլայ ներկայ ըլլալ Ձեր եկեղեցւոյ Օժան սրբազան արարողութեան, եւ մեր խնդակցութեան խօսքը անձամբ տալ մեր սիրեցեալ նախկին ծխականներուն:

Այժմէն կը շնորհակտրեմ Ձեզ եւ ամբողջ Համայնքը նման երջանիկ առիթով, եւ կուտամ իմ սիրալիւր ողջոյնները եւ օրհնութիւնը ամէնքիդ:

Աղօթեալ

Պատրիարք Հայոց Թիւրքիոյ
Եւ նախկին Հոգ. Հովիւ Հայոց Բիթլիսի

Compliments of
Mr. and Mrs. Danny Vahanian



Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

ԱՄԵՐԱՆՈՐԴԱՄԸ ԷԱՅՈՒ ԱՐԵՐԻԱՅԻ
ԱՌՆ ԱՐԲԵՐՈՒՄԻՆԻՍՏ ԲԱՆՈՒՎԱՆՆԵՐ
Առաջնորդ

630 SECOND AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016 * MURRAY HILL 6-0710

Archbishop Sion Manoogian, Primate

Գ Ռ Ր Օ Ր Հ Ն Ո Ւ Յ Ն

Փաթրուրնի Արրոց Անունդանց Եկեղեցւոյ Ծման Առթիւ

Այս հոգեւոր ցնձաթանն առթիւ, կ'ողջունենք Փաթրուրնի, Ֆէրլուսի եւ շրջա- կայքի մեր բարեպաշտ ժողովուրդը, ու սրտազին կը խնդակցինք ձեզի, որ ձեր սրբ- տարուի նուէրներով կառուցիք այս Հայկական Եկեղեցին: Հայց. Եկեղեցին մեր ժո- ժողովուրդի լուսապաշտ ու զգապաշտ հոգիին ու միտքին սանձազործութիւնն է, մեր մեջադոյն զանձը եւ թանկագին ժառանգութիւնը:

Քրիստոսի Եկեղեցին "դուռն է երկնից", "բնակարան հրեշտակաց" եւ "բաւարան մարդկան": Երեք յատկանիշներ, որոնցմով, անթկա կը կատարէ իր աստուածային ա- տաբնութիւնը, եւ փրկազործութեան խորհուրդը: Հայց. Եկեղեցին, սգիւտքի մէջ ոսկի շրջաթանն է, որ զմեզ կը գտնէ Ս. Էջմիածնին: Անոր վուրը թորանին վրայ ան- շէջ կը շողայ "Լուսաւորչի Անթեղը" որ լոյս կու տայ Հայոց լուսակարօտ հոգի- ներուն:

Հայ Եկեղեցին ոչ միայն հայուիւնան հոգեւոր լոյսի խորանն է, այլ նաեւ Հայ ժողովուրդի "տապանակ ուխտի"ն է, որուն մէջ սրբութեամբ պահուած է մեր ազգի "ոսկեղէն սափորը լի մանանայի": Անիկա փառարանն է մեր մշակոյթին ու գեղար- ուեստին: Գուրգուրանք անոր վրայ, ու մշտափստ պահենք "Լուսաւորչի Անթեղը" անոր սրբազան կամարներուն տակ:

Միրելի ժողովուրդ Փաթրուրնի, Ֆէրլուսի եւ շրջակայքի,
Ձեր նորակառոյց Եկեղեցւոյ օծումը ուրախալի առիթ մըն է, վերանորոգելու ձեր հաւատարմութեան ուխտը հանդէպ Մայր Աթոռ Սուրբ Էջմիածնին եւ Հայ Եկեղեց- լոյ առաքելական հաւատքին ու աստուածային լոյսին:

Այսու կ'օրհնենք եկեղ. ցւոյզ հոգեւոր հովիւը, շինութեան յանձնակումբը, ձիա- կան խորհուրդը եւ համայն ժողովուրդը, որոնց առատածնուն սուրբաւորութիւններով կարելի եղաւ կառուցանել այս "Եկեղեցին Հայկական" իբրիւ "տուն Աստուծոյ եւ տուն ազօրից":

"Ուրախ լեր Մուրը Եկեղեցի, քանզի Հրիստոս արքայն երկնից, այսօր պսակեաց զքեզ իաշիւն իւրով...":

Տիրաւանդ սիրոյ ողջունիւ
եւ օրհնութեամբ
Արքեպարտ
Սիոն Մանուգիան
Առաջնորդ Հայոց Ամերիկայի
եւ Կանադայի

Յուլիս 10, 1965

Compliments of
Neil S. Greydanus
Architect for St. Leon's Church



His Grace, Archbishop Sion Manoogian
Primate, Diocese of North America

Compliments of
A Friend



Diocese of the Armenian Church
of America

ԱՌՁԱՆՈՐԴԻԵՐՆԻ ՀԱՅՍՑ ԱՄԵՐԻԿԱՅԻ
ՍՈՑԻ ԱՐԺԻԵՐԻՍՏՈՍ ՄԱՆՈՒԿԻՆԸ
Աստվածք

630 SECOND AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016 * MURRAY HILL 6-0710

Archbishop Sion Hameghian, Primate

A MESSAGE OF BLESSING

ON THE OCCASION OF THE CONSECRATION OF ST. LEON'S CHURCH

On the occasion of this spiritual festivity, we greet the devout people of Paterson, Fairlawn, and environs, and wholeheartedly share their happiness for having built this Armenian Church with their generous gifts. The Armenian Church is the creation of the pious and patriotic soul and mind, and greatest treasure of the Armenian people.

Christ's Church is the door to heaven, "the abode of angels," and purgatory for men-- three characteristics whereby it performs its divine mission and mystery of salvation. In the dispersion the Armenian Church is the golden chain which binds us to Holy Etchmiadzin. On its holy altar there shines eternally the "lamp of the Illuminator," which illumines to Armenian souls.

The Armenian Church is not only the altar of light of the Armenian people, but also the "ark of covenant," wherein are preserved the golden pot of manna." It is the source of our culture and art. Let us guard it, and keep the Lamp of the Illuminator glowing forever under its sacred vaults.

Dear people of Paterson and of Fairlawn:

The consecration of your new church is a happy occasion to renew your vow of fealty towards the Mother See Holy Etchmiadzin, to the apostolic faith of the Armenian Church and to the divine light.

We hereby bless your pastor, the Building Committee, Parish Council, and all the people, whose generosity has made possible this Armenian Church as a house of God and house of prayer.

Rejoice Holy Church, for Christ the King of Heaven has crowned thee with his Cross. . ."

With paternal greetings
and blessings
Prayerfully,

Sion H. P.

SION ARCHBISHOP
Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian
Church of America and Canada

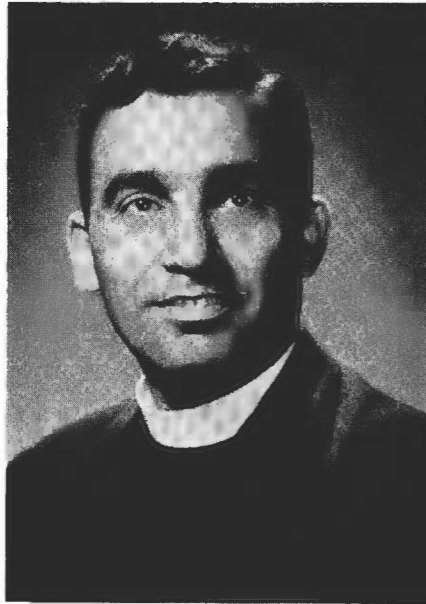
Compliments of
Mr. and Mrs. Harry G. Tatossian



The Late Archbishop Mampre Galfayan

Former pastor of our church

Compliments of
Mr. and Mrs. Vay Najarian



Rev. Fr. Carnig Hallajian
Pastor of our church

ABOUT OUR PASTOR

Father Carnig was born in Aleppo, Syria. He attended the Armenian public school in Aleppo for his elementary education. At the age of fourteen he went to Jerusalem and studied for the priesthood at the Armenian Seminary in Jerusalem and Antilias. He taught in Armenian schools for six years.

At the invitation of Archbishop Mampre Calfayan, then the Primate of our Diocese of the Armenian Church, he came to America in 1956. He served St. Leon's parish as a deacon while attending the Episcopal General Theological Seminary. In 1960, he married Rose Norian. Since his ordination to the priesthood in 1960, he has been pastor of St. Leon's Armenian Church.

Compliments of
Herman H. Croland

Dear Parishioners,

During the past thirty years, Armenians in Paterson and surrounding communities have received their spiritual guidance under the care and endearment of St. Leon's Armenian Church. Indeed, St. Leon's Church, like a loving mother, has nurtured her children in the teachings of the Holy Bible and inspired them to keep and maintain their Armenian national values.

With great pride, we all witnessed the completion of the new church building in Fair Lawn. We are thankful to our heavenly Father for giving us the opportunity to build a more beautiful house of prayer in order to be able to worship and glorify Him according to the true teachings and the sacred tradition of the Armenian Church.

The splendor of physical structure of the church must be the true expression of the spiritual riches and beauty of our faithful. And we hope that the children of the Armenian Church in Fair Lawn and surrounding communities will receive their spiritual nourishment in and from St. Leon's Church and enrich their Christian life. Also, within the walls of our beloved church we will be able to safeguard our precious Armenian culture.

At this very special and happy occasion, I pray to God to adorn you all with His everlasting wisdom and grace, so that you may always be able to follow in the footsteps of our forefathers and with the same deep faith and great spirit to strive for the preservation of the Armenian Church and heritage for the coming generations.

Prayerfully,
FATHER CARNIG HALLAJIAN

Compliments of
Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Shakarjian

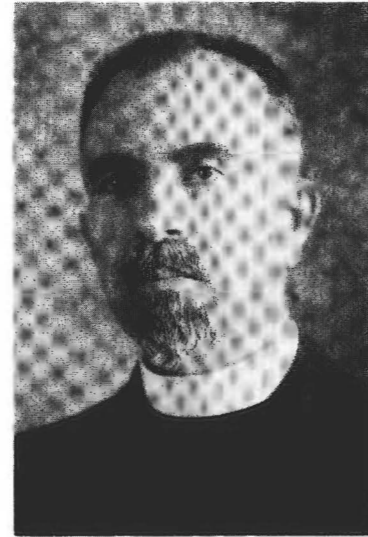
Սիրելի ժողովուրդ,
Անցնող աւելի քան երեսուն տարիներու ընթացքին, գեւոր միտթարութիւնը եւ շրջակայ համայն հայ հաւատացեալները, իրենց հոգեւոր ծննդավայրը զսած են Սրբոց Ղեւոնդեանց եկեղեցւոյ հովանիին նուցանել հայ ժողովուրդի զաւակները, մեր Տիրոջ Յիսուս Բրիստոսի աւանդած սուրբ Աւետարանի ուսուցումներով եւ հայ մշակութիւնը պահպանելով:
Լօն քաղաքին մէջ Սրբոց Ղեւոնդեանց ծուխին նորակառոյց եկեղեցւոյ ընդ աւարտիլը: Ծնորհակալ եւ երաստապարտ ենք մեր երկնաւոր Հօ-տուն մը, հոն անդադրում կատուցանելու եւ փառաբանելու համար Ձեր բազան աւանդութեանց:
Արդարեւ, նիւթական շէնքին գեղեցկութիւնը պէտք է գեղեցկութեան: Տուտալից ենք որ Սրբոց Ղեւոնդեանց եկեղեցւոյ նոր կամարներուն ներքեւ, ձեր ունի եւ շրջակայ քաղաքներու հայ ժողովուրդի զաւակները, միշտ ալ պիտի գտնեն գոհունակութիւն եւ բաւարարութիւն, իրենց հոգեւոր կեանքի բարեզարդման, ինչպէս նաեւ իրենց ազգային արժէքներու պահպանման եւ զարգացման համար:
Այս հոգեպարտ աղիթով, որպէս հոգեւոր հովիւր այս օրերին, կ'աղօթեմ առ Աստուած որ համայնքին համայն հաւատացեալները Լեցնէ իմաստութեամբ եւ շնորհքով, որպէսզի բոլորիս ալ քայլերը առաջնորդուին մեր նախահայրերուն հաւատքով եւ ոգով եւ կարենանք մեզի ծառանգ մնացած հայ եկեղեցիին եւ մշակութիւնը առաւել գեղեցկացուցած յանձնել զալիք սերունդներուն:

Աղօթարար
Գառնիկ Բեյ, Խաչատրյան
Գառնիկ Բեյ, Հալաբեան

FORMER PARISH PASTORS



Rev. Fr. Hovhanness Kavoukjian



Rev. Fr. Vahan Jelalian



Rev. Fr. Arten Ashjian



Rev. Fr. Vartan Der Assadourian

Compliments of
St. Thomas Armenian Church, Tenafly, N. J.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH

THE Church of Armenia acknowledges as its original founders two of the twelve apostles of Christ, Thaddeus and Bartholomew, who are referred to as the "first enlighteners of Armenia" to distinguish them from the second enlightener, St. Gregory. According to tradition, the two apostles were put to death in Armenia. The generally accepted chronology gives a period of eight years to the mission of St. Thaddeus (35-43 A.D.) and sixteen years to that of St. Bartholomew (44-60 A.D.).

In the year 301 there happened a most important event not only in the history of Armenia, but in the annals of the Christian Church. The faith which from the beginning had been relentlessly persecuted throughout the world was proclaimed as the national religion of Armenia — the first state to do so.

The man who made this possible was St. Gregory, called the "Enlightener" or "Illuminator" of Armenia. Gregory was of noble family, educated in Caesarea, then a Christian center. He entered the service of King Trdat of Armenia and after much persecution and suffering succeeded in converting the King, who in turn helped him convert the entire country to Christianity. Among his many deeds was the building of the first Christian cathedral in what was then the capital of Armenia, near Mount Ararat, as directed by our Lord in a vision, in memory of which it is known as Holy Etchmiadzin; that is, the place where the Only Begotten Son descended. The seat of the Catholicos of All Armenians, although it has been moved to other locations over the centuries, remains at Holy Etchmiadzin to this day.

Compliments of
Luther Studios, Church and Memoria! Windows, Paterson, N. J.

In 415 A.D., a missionary monk, St. Mesrop, after much toilsome search, travel and consultation with eminent scholars, composed the first Armenian alphabet. The Catholicos, St. Sahak, a profound scholar, gave much help and encouragement to Mesrop in his endeavors. The first task, upon completion of the alphabet — consisting of 36 letters in which every sound of the Armenian language was represented — was the translation of the Bible. The development of a written language endowed the nation with a priceless treasure — letters and literature — and thereby placed a greater stress on national identity.

In 451 A.D., the Armenian nation fought the first battle in defense of its faith, the first in a long series of battles it has had to fight down to the 20th century. In 451 A.D., the Persians commanded all Christians to embrace its religion of fire worship — Mazdeism. Even though the country was ruled by the Persians at the time, the Armenian people refused to submit and met the Persians in a pitched battle on the plains of Avarayr. The leader of this group, Vardan Mamigonian and more than 1,000 of his men were slain. Although the death of Vardan was a severe loss for Armenia, the battle of Avarayr saved the nation, for the Persians, not having expected such stout resistance, were convinced that the Armenians meant to die before surrendering their Christian faith. Vardan's supreme sacrifice and that of his fellow soldiers, many of whom were from princely families, has been ardently cherished to the present day. The Armenian Church celebrated the anniversary of the Battle of Avarayr and pays tribute to the heroes who fell on that day. Their memorial day is a major holiday for all Armenians.

The Armenian homeland unfortunately was located at the crossroads of the Near East. Never being numerous enough or strong enough to ward off the great hosts of invaders which periodically subjugated their lands, the Armenians were constantly forced to fight for their faith and their nation. They served as the outpost for the Byzantine Empire for centuries and much of the success of the Crusades is attributed to the aid the Armenian Christians gave to the Christians of Europe.

With the fall of the Byzantine Empire in 1453, a large portion of the Armenian nation and church passed under the control of the Turks. At first tolerant of the minorities under their control, the Turks became more hostile as the centuries wore on; culminating their hostility in 1915 with the massacre and deportation of approximately two million Armenians from their ancient homeland.

The surviving Armenians were dispersed throughout the world; with a great number coming to the United States.

The first Armenian Church in the United States was built in 1889 in Worcester, Mass., and the first Armenian clergyman to set foot in the United States did so in 1888. Today, there are 54 Armenian Apostolic Churches in this country, and as a testament to its faith, the North American Diocese of the Armenian Church is now building a \$2,500,000 Cathedral and Cultural Center project on the island of Manhattan, New York City.

THE CATHEDRAL OF HOLY ETCHMIADZIN



The Mother Church, Built in 301-303

Compliments of
Ipsen Church Interiors, Inc., Pews, Altars, Bronx, N. Y.

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.

Compliments of
Mr. and Mrs. John Tembeck

Our church therefore has been "set apart" for a special, sacred purpose. It has been dedicated to God. We have entrusted ourselves to the special care of the saint or saints invoked, and have promised to live as they would wish us to live, namely according to the holy will of God.

A consecration is also a joyful occasion. It is natural to feel joy when we behold a worthwhile achievement of our own. But we cannot rest until the gift that we make to God through His saints is as perfect as we can make it. We must make our church as beautiful as possible, engaging the help of the finest artists and using the best materials available within the utmost of our financial means. And we must aim, above all, to achieve our own spiritual perfection.

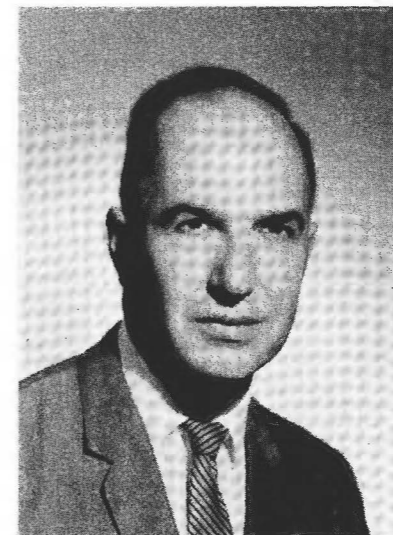
A church is, after all, a house which shelters a family. The people of a parish are a family. We must make a renewed effort on the occasion of the consecration of our church to make the Armenian Christian family of Fair Lawn one that brings honor to the name "Armenian" and does justice to the name "Christian."



PAUL HACHIGIAN
Chairman, Parish Council



E. GEORGE DABAGIAN
General Chairman
Building Committee



ANDREW S. TILBIAN
Delegate



JOHN NAKASHIAN
Delegate

Compliments of
Mr. and Mrs. Ned J. Parsekian

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CORNERSTONE
LAYING
CEREMONY



Compliments of
Vander Platt Colonial Funeral Home, Fair Lawn, N. J.

THE NEW CHURCH



THE new St. Leon's Armenian Church is designed to serve all of the immediate needs of the parish.

The worship area — the main floor and balcony — will seat approximately 325 persons. With its laminated arch construction and clean sweep of its beamed ceiling, parishioners will have an unobstructed view of the altar from any point in the church.

Eighteen new stained glass windows, fashioned by Luther Studios in Paterson, grace the walls of the worship area, while 11 stained glass windows brought from the old church are used in the narthex and in the priest's and choir's rooms. A huge stained glass window hangs in the front wall of the church, visible from both inside and outside. Upon it is shown St. Sahag, St. Mesrop and their students making the first translation of the Holy Bible into the newly developed Armenian language early in the Fifth Century. In the background is shown Holy Etchmiadzin, built in the Third Century, and which to this day still serves as the seat of the Catholicos of all Armenians; and a view of Mt. Ararat, the towering symbol of the motherland to Armenians throughout the ages.

Directly behind the choir and priest's room is a large room for parish council meetings, while stairs lead to a second room which will serve as the church office.

The church hall, or basement, is clear of any obstructions with the aid of a steel beam construction. It will seat 300 persons banquet style and approximately 400 persons auditorium style. It has a stage, with an adjoining dressing room and lavatories. The kitchen and serving area is in the rear of the church hall with exits leading to the rear church ground which will allow its use for church picnics and other outdoor functions, as well as for affairs held in the hall.

The church is 44 feet wide and 109 feet long and is, in the shape of a rectangle. Its most striking exterior feature is the classic Armenian style church dome. Within the dome are chimes which will call the faithful to worship with the playing of Armenian Sharagans. The dome, from base to tip, measures twenty-two feet.

Compliments of
Holy Cross Armenian Church, Union City, N. J.

The exterior of the church is covered with speckled beige brick and bordered with white limestone. A large stainless steel cross rests on one of the front walls, and a smaller cross tops the church dome.

One of the most spectacular features of the interior is the new church altar. Built by Ipsen Church Interiors Incorporated, Bronx, to our specifications, the altar measures 17 feet high and is six and a half feet wide and five and a half feet deep. It is of oak wood. Hand carved into its front is the Lord's Last Supper. The portrait of the Virgin Mary with Child, taken from the altar in the Paterson church, stands in the center of the altar and above, carved into the wood of the altar, is a chalice flanked by two peacocks, a traditional pattern of ancient Christian churches.

Topping the altar is an Armenian dome and Cross — an exact replica of the dome atop the church.

Eight lantern type chandeliers hang from the ceiling, their red and blue lamps also fashioned after Armenian church domes.

Hanging in the center of the church is an antique crystal chandelier — over 300 years old — given to the church by a gracious friend.

The 28 pews in the main church area are of appalachian red oak and have light beige cushions. The carpeting, of a deep red, covers the entire floor of the worship area.

The baptismal font is pure Vermont marble. Upon it, hand carved, is an Armenian style cross; a dove symbolizing the Holy Spirit; and an inscription in Armenian lettering reading, "In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

GODFATHERS OF NEWLY CONSECRATED CHURCH



JOHN HARRY NAKASHIAN



HARRY H. NAKASHIAN

Little John Nakashian today became the main Godfather of St. Leon's Armenian Church, in memory of his grandfather, Harry H. Nakashian, who was instrumental in purchasing the beautiful grounds on Saddle River Road.

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 Nakashian
Mihran Noorigian
Charles Pinajian
Harry Sohigian
Martin Tarzian
Andrew S. Tilbian
Leon Yazmajian

Program

National Anthem - - - - - Sung by Assembly
Piano Accompanist—Mrs. E. George Dabagian

Invocation - - - - - Archbishop Sion Manoogian
Primate of Armenian Diocese of North America

Dinner

Welcome Address - - - - - Anthony H. Purpuse
Fund Raising Chairman

Master of Ceremonies - - - - - Andrew S. Tilbian

Remarks - - - - - E. George Dabagian
General Chairman, Building Committee

Our Church - - - - - Rev. Carnig Hallajian
Pastor, St. Leon's Armenian Church

Remarks - - - - - Paul Hachigian
Chairman, Parish Council

Soloist - - - - - Lili Chookasian
Metropolitan Opera Star
accompanied by Max Walmer

Remarks - - - - - The Very Rev. Vatche Hovsepian
representing the Clergy

Greetings - - - - - Richard Vander Plaat
Mayor of Fair Lawn

Cake Ceremony - - - - - Lud Shabazian

Address and Benediction - - - - - Archbishop Sion Manoogian

Compliments of
The Dorians
Bob, Mary, Bobby, Kim and Mary Jan

Compliments of
Minnema Builders Inc.
General Contractors for St. Leon's Church

1965 PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS



Seated: Paul Hachigian, Chairman; John Nakashian, Diocesan delegate; Rev. Carnig Hallajian, Pastor; Andrew Tilbian, Diocesan delegate; Miss Bette Noorigian, Executive Secretary.

Standing: Charles Pinajian, Secretary; James Boyajian, Vice Chairman; Aram Mazoujian, James Noorigian, John Voskian, Assistant Treasurer; E. George Dabagian, John Azarian, Treasurer; and John Jerrahian.

Compliments of
Tfank Family
Mr. and Mrs. Dicran Simsarian

FORMER PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| *Setrak Ajamian | Zaven Marootian |
| *Sahag Avedisian | Arshag Nakashian |
| *Sooren Avedisian | John Nakashian |
| Michael Azarian | *Sesag Nalbandian |
| Leo Bakalian | (Father Khoren Mamigonian) |
| Joseph Bakalian | Leon Noorigian |
| Sarkis Bakalian | Mihran Noorigian |
| *Hovoness Bejian | Alex Phillian |
| George Beshlian | Harootiun Sahatjian |
| *Jack Chekemian | John N. Sahatjian |
| Bared Dabaghian | Anthony H. Purpuse |
| *Daniel Danielian | Hannah Shahinian |
| Dikran Dishian | Alex Skenderian |
| *Haig Dishian | *Mnoosh Soghomonian |
| Paul Dishian | Harry Sohigian |
| *Movses Hachigian | *J. Tashjian |
| Charles Holopikian | *Albert Tfank |
| Mihran Jerrahian | Andrew Tilbian |
| *Hagop Kafafian | *Aram Tilbian |
| John Kardashian | Edward Torosian |
| Diran Kurkjian | Tony Tungrian |
| Armenag Mardirossian | Alex Vartanessian |
| Arsen Marootian | Mary Vartanessian |
| Ira Marootian | Hrant Yousoufian |
| Vartouhi Marootian | Milton Zara |

*Deceased

Compliments of
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ST. LEON'S ARMENIAN SCHOOL



Compliments of
Mr. and Mrs. Edward G. Bashian
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ST. LEON'S ARMENIAN SCHOOL

SPONSORING an Armenian School has always been a wish of Armenians in the Paterson area. An Armenian school was first formed prior to the purchase of the Armenian Church in Paterson. First classes were held in private homes. The Parish Council meeting on April 22, 1934, formed the first church sponsored Armenian School Committee. Members were Megerdich Akellian, Manoog Jamgochian, Dicran Berberian, Mardiros Hatchigian and Sarkis Filian.

Classes were held in Turian Hall under the supervision of Mrs. Manoo-shag Telalian. Classes were held from 4 to 6 P.M., three times a week. Committee members worked hard to secure financial support for the school. In addition, the Armenian School had many devoted and capable teachers. Mrs. Nevart Hajian (Bakalian), during her teaching years, had more than thirty students in her classes. Mrs. Hajian terminated her teaching when she was married. The Armenian school committee then called on Mr. A. Hovasapian to teach. He was succeeded by another experienced teacher, Mrs. Vartanoush Paboojian. After a short time, Yeretzgin Jelalian took over the supervision of the school.

After a lapse of several years, the Armenian School was reinstated by the Parish Council and by Rev. Carnig Hallajian, but due to the lack of interest by parents and shortage of teachers was closed again. Last September it was reopened and quickly enrolled 25 students. Classes were held on Saturdays 10 to 12 noon in the church hall.

The school is divided into three groups: senior, intermediate and primary. Persons who have served as instructors were: Rev. Hallajian, Miss Sona Dellakian, Mrs. Armine Chepikian and Miss Sona Melidonian.

The curriculum consists of Armenian reading, writing, history, conversation, songs and dances. A tuition fee of \$10 is donated yearly by each student.

In the past the Armenian School Committee was responsible for the social and financial obligations; but now the Ladies Aid Society has accepted all of these responsibilities.

Compliments of
Oakland Cleaners, Oakland, N. J.
Hye Corporations Watsons Liquors, Oakland, N. J.

The Armenian School gave a highly successful recital on May 23, at which time more than 100 parents and friends listened to recitations and songs and watched students perform Armenian dances dressed in authentic Armenian costumes. Teaching the dances to the students were Virginia Holopikian and Margaret Semonian.

The Armenian School will continue this year and it is hoped that more students will join the school. Here they will learn their mother tongue, Armenian songs, dances, recitations and Armenian history — all designed to keep alive our Armenian heritage.

Compliments of
Aram Carpet Service
Haig Simsarian Agency, Insurers & Realtors, Union City, N. J.

EXECUTIVE BUILDING COMMITTEE



Seated, left to right: Zaven Marootian, memorials; Andrew Purpuse, fund raising; Andrew Dabbakian, construction; E. George Dabagian, general chairman; Miss Bette Noorigian, executive secretary; James Boyajian, publicity.

Standing, left to right: Edward Torosian, financial; Paul Hachigian, construction; John Nakashian, associate chairman; Andrew Tilbian, associate chairman; John Jerrahian, fund raising.

Compliments of
St. Mary's Armenian Church, Irvington, N. J.
Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs, Bayside, Long Island, N. Y.

LADIES AID SOCIETY

FOR the Armenians outside of their native country, the Armenian Church has always been their spiritual and intellectual center. Here, Armenians maintain the inheritance of their forefathers: and 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 September 1, 1928, in Paterson. The charter members were Vartouhi Marootian, Nemzoor Sahatjian, Munoosh Mazoojian, Sofie Turpan and Gadar Alijian.



Ladies Aid Executive Committee: *from left to right:* Mrs. Dovie Tilbian, vice chairlady; Mrs. Maritza Giragosian, advisor; Mrs. Lucy Dabagian, chairlady; Mrs. Margaret Semonian, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Artemis Jesraly, treasurer. Absent when photo was taken: Mrs. Ann Marootian, recording secretary; Mrs. Emerald Noorigian, publicity; Mrs. Marion Norbe, Sunshine; Mrs. Mary Tilbian, advisor; and Mrs. Arax Gamgochian, membership.

Compliments of
Anahede and Ed Turnamian
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Jesraly & Family

In the beginning the Ladies Aid launched a strong membership drive. The result was the formation of a strong and active group. Over the years, the Ladies Aid 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: and that was to have their own church.

When the church was purchased, the members of the Ladies Aid sponsored affairs and worked as members of the fund raising committee. As the years went by, new and young members joined the Ladies Aid. A large and strong membership enabled the Ladies Aid to work out a program of annual affairs. This included a bazaar, lenten dinner and veegak — the traditional festival — on the occasion of the Ascension. All of these affairs have always been great successes.

Earlier this year the Ladies Aid celebrated its 37th anniversary and pins and crosses were awarded to a number of members for their long and faithful service.

The Ladies Aid Society with its approximately 90 members is continuing its moral and financial support for the progress of the church.



Compliments of
St. Leon's Guild
In Memory of Jack Chekemian
Anne and Lisa

ST. LEON'S CHURCH CHOIR

THE Church Choir has had its share of prominent members. In the beginning it was led by Sesak 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's Church was officially consecrated. He served in this capacity for many years until he retired recently. There was also Garabed Der Boghosian who assisted in the services for a number of years as did Mardiros Tellalian and Bedros Shamirianian.

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

Taking over Mrs. Avedisian's duties when she gave up her position was Mrs. Isabelle Pabian, a long-time Choir member, who served in this capacity faithfully for a number of years.

Succeeding her as Organist was Lillian Boyajian, who in addition, sang as soloist. She left after her marriage to a Choir member of a neighboring Sister Parish.

For the past ten years, Mrs. Lucy Dabagian has served as director and organist of the Choir. Assistant organists are Dawn Dabbakian and George Marootian.

In 1952, Der Arten Ashjian, as pastor of our parish, was responsible for training a number of male choir members to serve 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. Performing this ceremony was Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan, then primate of the North American Diocese.

All of these members subsequently served on the altar and in the Choir with a special mention for Mr. Pinajian who has faithfully and consistently served on the altar from that time to the present.

In August of this year, another generation of American born Armenians were ordained as acolytes and sub-deacons by Archbishop Sion Manoogian, primate of the North American Diocese.

Ordained as acolytes were: Robert Atamian, Drew Dabbakian, Wayne Kehishian, 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.

Rev. Hallajian trained this group with the aid of Mr. Pinajian and Mihran Noorigian. Mr. Noorigian also helped train the first sub-deacons ordained in 1952 and has faithfully served on the altar for many years.

Also presently serving on the altar is Dikran Tavitian who was ordained a deacon in Egypt. Dr. Shakan Sevhonkian has served on the altar on numerous occasions.



Deacons and Choir Members: *Seated, left to right:* Mihran Noorigian, Charles Pinajian, Rev. Carnig Hallajian; Dikran Tavitian. *Second Row:* Robbyn Dabbakian, Patty Pace, Mrs. Helen Mazoujian, Mrs. Polly Holopikian, Aramine Mazoujian, Nancy Pace, Mrs. Lucy Dabagian. *Last Row:* George Marootian, Peter Gamgochian, Richard Dabagian, Sarkis Jamgochian, Aram Mazoujian. Those not present when photo was taken are: Mrs. Esther Avedisian, Mrs. Siranoosh Boyajian, Dawn Dabbakian, Mrs. Marion Norbe and Mrs. Helen Verga.

Compliments of
Allan Electric Co., Paterson, N. J.
Van Hotel, Simon Eretzian, Asbury Park, N. J.

Compliments of
The Chalet, Rochelle Park, N. J.
Dr. and Mrs. John B. Voskian
Mrs. Satenig Kazanjian
Mr. and Mrs. James Boyajian

ST. LEON'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

ST. LEON'S first Armenian Church Sunday School was begun under the guidance of Bishop Shnork Kaloustian, then pastor of St. Leon's Church.

The first session was held on Sunday morning, May 1, 1949, with a teaching staff of two, Mr. Leo Bakalian and Miss Bette Noorigian. Seven children attended. Within one month, the number had grown to 14 children. Lessons and curriculum were devised through the ingenuity of the teachers. Two years later Sunday School membership had increased to thirty children and three teachers, the third teacher being Yerezkin M. Ashjian.



Sunday School Staff. *Seated, left to right:* Edward Azarian, Mrs. Ann Pace; Yerezkin Rose Hallajian, superintendent; Mrs. Mary Noorigian and Mrs. Mary Dabbakian. *Standing, left to right:* Miss Margaret Kantarian, Mrs. Edna Tungrian, Mrs. Emerald Noorigian, Mrs. Arpine Vartanesian, Mrs. Mary Garmirian, Miss Rose Mardirossian, Mrs. Elsie Bedrosian and Mrs. Marion Shahinian.



By 1960, the Sunday School had grown to 48 children with a teaching staff of five persons, four substitutes, two supervisors and one pianist and a secretary-treasurer.

At the close of the school year this June, enrollment stood at 86 children, with an average attendance of 70. The staff now numbers twenty. The superintendent is Yerezkin Rose Hallajian.

The church school is divided into the following departments and teachers: cradle roll, Miss Virginia Holopikian, Mrs. Dorothy Karamian, enrollment supervisor; pre-school and kindergarten, Mrs. Edna Tungrian, Mrs. Emerald Noorigian and Mrs. Mary Noorigian; primary department, Mrs. Peggy Dishian, Miss Margaret Kantarian, Mrs. Elsie Bedrosian and Mrs. Ann Pace; junior department, Mr. Edward Azarian, Mrs. Mary Garmirian and Mrs. Mary Dabbakian; junior high department, Mrs. Varsen Torosian, Miss Rose Mardirossian and Mrs. Arpine Vartanesian.

Many of the teachers serve as officers of the Sunday School.

The Sunday School follows the recommended curriculum of the Council for Religious Education of the Diocese and receives from that organization all material taught on the History of Armenia, the Armenian Church — its creeds, sacraments, feast days, holy days, saints and martyrs and other events. Sunday School children receive a well-rounded education of the Holy Bible.

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Mrs. Esther Avedisian
George and Shaka Shahinian
Dr. and Mrs. J. B. Basralian

CONSECRATION DINNER COMMITTEE



ANTHONY H. PURPUSE
General Chairman

DINNER COMMITTEE

Paul Hachigian, Chairman
John Voskian, Co-Chairman

AD BOOK

John Jerrahian, Chairman
E. George Dabagian, Editor
James Boyajian, Historical
Barbara Azarian, Special Drives
Helen Mazoujian
Andrew Dabbakian
Edna Tungrian
George Shahinian
Tony Tungrian

TREASURERS

Charles Pinajian
Edward Torosian

SECRETARIES

Bette Noorigian, Co-ordinator
Mary Hachigian
Margaret Kantarian
Virginia Holopikian
Rose Piranian

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Andrew Tilbian, Chairman
E. George Dabagian
Paul Hachigian
Zaven Marootian
John Jerrahian
Anthony H. Purpuse

TICKETS AND RESERVATIONS

Dovie Tilbian, Co-Chairman
Grace Pinajian, Co-Chairman
Margaret Jerrahian
Florence Purpuse

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

James Boyajian, Chairman
Lucy Dabagian
Aram Mazoujian

ARRANGEMENT COMMITTEE

Zaven Marootian, Chairman
George Bedrosian, Co-Chairman
John Nakashian
Elsie Bedrosian
Margaret Semonian
Mary Dabbakian

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Armen P. Kalbian
Mr. & Mrs. John Karanfilian
Lakeview Savings & Loans,
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Sunday School sessions 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 and church attendance until 12 noon.

The students and teachers receive Holy Communion the first Sunday of each month and Holy Communion at Christmas and Easter is followed by Communion Breakfast.

The Sunday School conducts a full range of special programs for the children, one of the most pleasing and well attended — over 250 adults — being its annual Christmas pageant. The Sunday School Bulletin is published four times a year and distributed to all students. It includes articles on the Armenian Church, feast days and has articles of interest for the students.

New this summer was the creation of a vacation Bible School, which was held every Sunday morning throughout the summer months. Enrollment numbered 20 children and it is expected that as this program develops enrollment will increase. In addition, this fall, the Sunday School will begin a junior choir from among its older members, under the direction of Mrs. Helen Verga, and will have a Library hour.

Special mention must also be made to the Mothers Committee, which was formed several years to handle all of the social functions of the school and to work in the development of the school. Its job well done, this year it has merged into the Ladies Aid Society.

The formation of the Sunday School by Bishop Kaloustian and its subsequent growth has been one of the most heartwarming experiences in our church. Many of the students are now teachers; others have gone on to serve in the choir.

Compliments of
Arman Ajamian
Dr. and Mrs. Frank De Dominicis
Dr. and Mrs. Haig J. Garjian
Mr. and Mrs. David Kulhanjian

THE HISTORY OF ST. LEON'S GUILD



ST. LEON'S Guild (Mr. and Mrs. Club) of St. Leon's Armenian Church was organized under the auspices of Archbishop Mampre Calfayan in March of 1953. The original executive board was comprised of E. George Dabagian, President; Peter Kafafian, Vice President; Recording Secretary, Margaret Semonian; Corresponding Secretary, Mary Dabbakian; Dovie Tilbian, Treasurer. Its main function is to participate in church activities and the welfare of the Armenian community.

Since its formation the organization has celebrated seven anniversaries. Its membership has grown to forty-six. Business meetings are held on the first Saturday of each month. Each meeting is supplemented with social activities. In addition, the Guild holds many affairs throughout the year, such as square dances, trips to the seashore and other resort areas, picnics and parties.

The St. Leon's Guild has participated in all church activities, Church bazaars, picnics. In its duty to the By-Laws, the Guild has contributed financially, in time and in effort to further all the affairs of the Church and its affiliated groups such as the Parish Council and Ladies Aid Society.

Compliments of
Mr. and Mrs. Henri Dimidjian
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Chulengarian & Family
Mr. and Mrs. John Bakalian & Family
Mr. and Mrs. M. Khatounagian

ST. LEON'S GUILD OFFICERS



From left to right: Mrs. Louise Zara, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Evelyn Orr, Treasurer; John Orr, Vice Chairman; Zaven Marootian, Advisor; Mrs. Margaret Semonian, Recording Secretary; and George Bedrosian, Chairman.

Compliments of
 Mr. and Mrs. Bertram L. Bressler
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Halebian
 Deacon and Mrs. L. Hekimian
 Mr. and Mrs. L. Noorigian — Marion, Debbie and Aram

IN LIEU OF FLOWER DONATIONS FOR
 ST. LEON'S ARMENIAN CHURCH BUILDING FUND

1959	Harry Nakashian	\$1,000.00
1960	Bedros Bondatzi	110.00
	Leona Tashjian	30.00
	Aram Tilbian	688.00
1961	Yeghishe Churchian	200.00
	Dertad & Garabed Garabedian	140.00
	Moses Hachigian	920.00
	Leon Marootian	316.50
	Lucia Najarian	66.00
1962	Mehran Agzigian	77.50
	Avedis Dishian	249.00
	Fanny Dishian	165.00
	Edward Gulkasian	540.00
	Jack Nakashian	159.00
	Khoren Pinajian	225.00
	Roupen Serabian	507.00
	Edward Torosian, Jr.	422.00
1963	Avedis Agzigian	378.00
	Dr. Hagop Beshlian	787.00
	Henry Chaputian, Jr.	351.50
	Dr. Joseph Chilian	90.00
	Aghavnie Danielian	77.00
	Dickran Deukmejian	335.00
	Azniv Kordja	236.00
	Melcon Piranian	205.00
1964	Aroosyag Baroushian	\$ 60.00
	Hrant Garboushian	10.00
	Lucia Kafafian	316.00
	Mariam Tamezian	86.00
	Harry Tegnazian	10.00
	Mary Tfank	860.00
1965	Setrag Ajamian	325.00
	Rebecca Garboushian	42.00
	Harry Casparian	175.00
	Jack Chekemian	385.00
	Sara Egarian	185.00
	Della Ghizzoni	37.00
	Aghavni Marookian	709.00
		<hr/>
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Mr. Alex Boyajian	10.00	Mr. & Mrs. R. St. Clair	25.00
Mr. & Mrs. H. K. Bozigian	20.00	Sunday School Mothers' Comm.	100.00
Mr. & Mrs. Bert Bressler	25.00	St. Leon's Guild	1,100.00
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Dear Faithful or Parishioner,

One of the most precious and beautiful sayings in our Prayer Book reads as follows: "Yeranee yegeghetzi shinoghatz" — "Blessed are church builders."

Indeed in this expression the Armenian people have formed their life. For more than seventeen centuries, Armenians all over the world have built churches in order to preserve their religious and cultural heritage.

According to the sacred tradition and custom of the Armenian Church, faithful build the church by donating a memorial in the name of departed loved ones. Memorials also may be donated by the families for taking part in this sacred task and to maintain our glorious Armenian heritage which has been passed on through each generation to us.

The response to the Memorial Gift Drive has been very heart-warming. Many people have already donated specific memorials, but many items still remain. Please call your memorial committee to select a memorial gift of your choice.



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