



from the office of the

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARCHBISHOP TORKOM MANOOGIAN ATTENDS 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF ST. GREGORY OF NAREK ARMENIAN CHURCH

The weekend of April 7 was an important one for the parishioners of St. Gregory of Narek Church in Cleveland, Ohio. It was the 25th Anniversary of this active Armenian Church and a momentous occasion for its congregation.

Upon his arrival at St. Gregory of Narek, His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian presided over the Vesper Services with the participation of the Very Reverend Fr. Sooren Chinchinian, Pastor, the Reverend Fr. Nersess Jebejian, the Reverend Fr. Arshag Khatchadourian and the Reverend Fr. Diran Papazian, all former pastors at St. Gregory of Narek.

A retrospective exhibit highlighting twenty-five fruitful and memorable years was officially opened after services, and many delighted in seeing old photographs from the ACYOA Archives and the original architectural plan of the church. A welcome reception concluded the evening.

On Saturday, parishioners had a chance to meet the Archbishop and former St. Gregory clergymen. Father Arshag Khatchadourian led the Sunday school children in the singing of two hymns, "Soorp Asdvadz," "Miyar Soorp, Miyar Der," and a folksong "Lorig." A gala dinner dance was held that evening at the Clarion Hotel in Eastlake where the Primate was the keynote speaker; proceeds from the event benefitted the Armenian Diocese Earthquake Fund.

The Divine Liturgy was celebrated on Sunday morning and a Requiem Service for the deceased members of St. Gregory of Narek and the earthquake victims followed.

The weekend concluded with a farewell reception given in the Church's Cultural Hall where the parish celebrated the Archbishop's birthday and his 50th year of ordination into the priesthood. A watercolor portrait of the Archbishop and a donation for the St. Nersess Seminary were presented to the Primate by the 25th Anniversary Committee as a symbol of appreciation.

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