



BANQUET IN HONOR OF
THE VERY REVEREND FATHER
HAIGAZOUN MELKONIAN
Dzayrakouyn Vartabed

ON THE OCCASION OF THE
TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY
OF HIS ORDINATION TO THE
SACRED PRIESTHOOD
SUNDAY, MAY 19, 1996

ARCHBISHOP KHAJAG BARSAMIAN, Primate
PRESIDING

Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church
Cheltenham, Pennsylvania



Very Reverend Father
Haigazoun Dzv. Melkonian
1976 - 1996



DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA
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Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRIMATE

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate my brother in Christ, the Very Reverend Fr. Haigazoun Melkonian, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of his ordination into the holy priesthood of the Armenian Church.

The vocation of the priesthood was established by Jesus Christ Himself, when He laid His hands upon His apostles, and sent them forth to evangelize and minister to all mankind. Guided by the Holy Spirit, the original apostles selected and ordained others to carry on this work, and this apostolic succession has been preserved and handed down, from one generation to the next, through the holy tradition of the Church. The priesthood is an unbroken chain which links all of us back to Christ.

Twenty years ago, Fr. Haigazoun took on the duties of Christ's priesthood. He has carried the pastoral staff with grace and dignity, and has become beloved in the hearts of his parishioners as a man of spiritual integrity, deep learning, and a gentle sense of humor. He has a special insight into the joys and sorrows of the human condition, and is always available to listen to a problem, answer a question, lend a sympathetic ear or a helping hand to the members of his flock.

During his ministry, Fr. Haigazoun has paid special attention to the vocation of teaching. It is the hallmark of the finest teachers that they can express the deepest sentiments and most profound ideas through a few carefully chosen words, thus clarifying us in our confusion, illuminating us in our ignorance, and consoling us in our sorrow. This is one of the highest callings for a pastor—a calling which Fr. Haigazoun truly exemplifies. The Armenian Church is fortunate to have such a shepherd leading its flock, and the Holy Trinity parish is fortunate to have him as its pastor.

We offer our congratulations to Fr. Haigazoun as he passes this milestone in his ministry, and pray that he will continue to preach, serve, and labor in the vineyard of our Lord for many years to come.

With prayers,

Abp. K. Barsamian

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian
Primate

May 19, 1996

VERY REV. FATHER HAIGAZOUN MELKONIAN

The Very Rev. Father Haigazoun Melkonian, Pastor of Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church of Cheltenham, PA, was born in Detroit, Michigan on August 22, 1949. He is the son of Byron and Virginia Melkonian, brother of Jacqueline El Chemmas and Patricia Muskat.

Fr. Haigazoun graduated from St. John's Church School where he later served as teacher, Worship Director and acolyte training program instructor and coordinator. He also taught Armenian language and folk dancing at the St. John's Calouste Gulbenkian Armenian School. He was an active member of the A.C.Y.O.A. Juniors and Seniors, and has held various positions in the Junior and Senior Chapters, both locally and on the national level in the A.C.Y.O.A. Seniors.

He also served as a teacher and counselor at the A.G.B.U. Camp Ararat.

Fr. Haigazoun earned his Bachelors of Education and Masters Degree in Guidance and Counseling from Wayne State University, and taught in the Detroit Public School System at the high school level for two years.

Before entering St. James' Seminary in Jerusalem in 1974, Fr. Haigazoun studied at the Seminary of Holy Etchmiadzin for one year. While studying for the priesthood in Jerusalem, he was a teacher of English and Geography, for which he prepared a bilingual text, at the Seminary.

On June 13, 1976 on the Feast of Pentecost, he was ordained to the sacred priesthood of the Armenian Apostolic Church. He is member of the St. James' Brotherhood of the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

In the spring of 1978, Fr. Haigazoun was elevated to the rank of Vartabed, Doctor of the Church.

Very Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Melkonian became a member of the clergy of the Diocese of the Armenian Church in America in October of 1978, at which time he assumed his responsibilities as pastor of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church of Haverhill, Massachusetts.

In January of 1984, the Primate, His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian appointed Fr. Haigazoun as pastor of Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church he is presently serving.

Fr. Haigazoun has written **THE ACOLYTE TRAINING PROGRAM OF THE ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH**, which is printed under the auspices of our Diocese. He was asked and has corrected for publication the A.C.Y.O.A. booklet, **SACRAMENTS AND PRAYERS** and a **DICTIONARY OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH**. He has translated and edited **SAINTS AND FEASTS OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH** which was printed in 1990 for the Department for Religious Education.

Very Rev. Haigazoun Melkonian received the rank of Dzayrakouyn Vartabed on September 14, 1991 from His Eminence, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church.

M E N U

Armenian Hors d'oeuvres

Salad

Rolls & Butter

Filet Mignon

Garlic & Herbs Red Bliss Potatoes

Asparagus

Khadaif

Coffee

PROGRAM

INVOCATION

His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, *Primate*
Diocese of the Armenian Church

TOAST

Arsen Hanamirian, Esquire

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

John Hoplamazian

ADDRESS

Nicklas Terkanian

MUSICAL SELECTIONS

Maroush Nigon
Ara Eloian - *Accompanist*

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Garo Garibian
Parish Council Chairman

GUEST OF HONOR

Very Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Dzv. Melkonian
Pastor

ADDRESS & BENEDICTION

His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, *Primate*
Diocese of the Armenian Church



Our Sincere Thanks

BANQUET CHAIR &
FOOD PREPARATION

Zepure McKenna

FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS
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John Hoplamazian

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Merle Santerian

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