



Armenian Church of The Holy Translators

Rev. Fr. Krikor A. Sabounjian, Pastor

News from the Armenian Church of the Holy Translators

Where Faith, Family, and Fellowship Meet

April 2008



Another Milestone in the life of the Armenian Church of the Holy Translators

The sacrament of ordination is always worthy of celebration, whether it's ordination to the priesthood, sub-deacon or tbir. Our parish enjoyed a special celebration as we honored the 10th anniversary of our pastor's ordination to the priesthood and added to the joyous weekend by witnessing the ordination of six more of our young men -- three becoming sub-deacons and three tbrs.

His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of our Diocese, joined the parish on Sunday, February 10 for another milestone in the life of the Armenian Church of the Holy Translators. The young men His Eminence ordained have grown up in our parish and have earned their ourars (stoles). They have applied themselves both by learning the Badarak and the services of the Armenian Church, and in serving faithfully almost every Sunday at the altar. Jeffrey Hyde, Christopher Seifel, and Michael Tutunjian were ordained to the rank of sub-deacon by the Archbishop during the Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning. Ara Bablouzian, Daniel Hyde, and Michael Sabounjian were ordained to the rank of tbir.

In addition to these highlights, the Primate also blessed several of the younger children of the Sunday School who have begun their service to the Church and their parish by serving on the altar as acolytes during the Badarak. He also honored Der Krikor by bestowing upon him a pectoral cross, in honor of his ten years of service to the Armenian Church as a priest. And the parish along with Der Krikor's family fulfilled a wish of its pastor, giving Der Krikor a memorable gift on the occasion of this anniversary, adding a blue sky ceiling directly above the altar where he celebrates the Divine Liturgy each Sunday.

A Message from Our Pastor

The State of the Parish

The following was delivered at our Parish Assembly as part of my Pastor's report.
Rev. Fr. Krikor A. Sabounjian

The year 2007 was designated by our Primate, Abp. Khajag Barsamian as the year of "Church and Home – One in Spirit." If the Church is to be significant in the lives of her people, it must provide for them a faith experience that speaks to their day to day lives. The Church needs to be the beacon, guiding the way to a life of significance, purpose and true meaning. If what we do on Sunday mornings has nothing to do with what we do or who we are from Monday to Saturday, then Sunday mornings have no value and become an exercise in futility. They become a nostalgic exercise of holding on to the past, but do nothing to guide us through the present. However, the Church is only one piece to the puzzle. Our experience at home must also reflect and compliment the experience at Church. It should be defined through the faith experience in our Church. The Church should provide a faith experience that speaks to our day to day lives and our day to day lives should reflect that reality.

It may seem at times for some of us, because of circumstances beyond our control that we as a Parish and I as your Pastor have lost sight of our original vision, which actually spoke to the reality articulated above. Our Parish life was predicated upon the faith experience received in the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings and the entire life of the Parish sprang forth from that faith experience. That reality has been compromised to a certain extent because some of the very things that allowed that faith experience to foster and flourish have been taken away. We are living under somewhat of a handicap and we have several ways we can react to that handicap. We can sit back in anger at the things beyond our control and spend most of our time complaining about them. We can get discouraged and pull back our participation and be reconciled to the fact that there is no hope. We can pick up and leave. All of these options are non-productive and in fact destructive. They only hurt us as a Parish. I for one have not and will not give up hope that we will find ways to get back that faith experience, if we are all willing to look beyond the existing handicap, and eventually return to the faith experience we once had. I for one have never given up hope that we can return to the power of the worship experience we have been touched by and I am committed to that endeavor.

We must however, also realize that we are not a Congregational Church in which we can do whatever we please and the Parishioners determine everything. We are part of an Orthodox Church. And as part of that Church we are bound to follow her doctrines, her Sacred Tradition and her Hierarchical structure. There are many things in the life of our Church that need to be changed and looked at seriously if the Armenian Church is to be truly significant in the life of every Armenian and his/her family. But change should never happen in a vacuum or simply for change itself. Change needs to be for the benefit of the Church as a whole. We can't be part of an Orthodox Church and act as if we are an entity in and of ourselves.

When we began this Parish over 10 years ago I stated quite clearly and I will state it again; "If you are looking to change the Armenian Church, I will not be a part of that. However, if you are looking to find ways to alter the way the Armenian Church presents herself; that I can and have been committed to." I will work hard for change in this way, but it needs to be Christ-centered and without anger, arrogance or pride. It must be done with humility and with the love of Christ. I love the Armenian Church, with all its faults and shortcomings and I am not willing to abandon her. It is not perfect in certain aspects, but it is my Church. If what we do is from the Holy Spirit, it will succeed. If what we do is not from the Holy Spirit it should not succeed.

However, I must also state that we as a Parish have been blessed this year in many ways and I will name a few. We have several new families and also relatively new families who have joined our Parish and have contributed, along with many of us, to a renewed excitement and hope. I performed nearly double the number of Christenings this year than I did last year. This in and of itself brings hope for our future. Our participation at events has been steady and in some cases increased – Our American Christmas Eve Carol Service and our Armenian Christmas Eve Community Dinner, Iron Chef, etc. We met or exceeded budget in most, if not every category. We have prepared 3 young teenage boys for ordination to the Sub-Deaconate. The Altar is filled with young people serving our Lord. Our teenagers, male and female, participate in the Divine Liturgy on a regular basis. We have done some wonderful outreach to our local community as well as to Armenia. So we have much to be thankful to our Lord for and much more that we can be doing if we work together. Our Parish is not perfect in certain aspects, but it is our Parish. Let us not focus so much on the negatives, which is destructive, rather let us focus on the many positives which is constructive. Instead of looking for faults and things to complain about, let us celebrate and be thankful for the gifts we have been given by God through this Parish.

continued to page 3

I will be focusing part of my ministry in 2008 to finding creative ways, in collaboration with the Parish, to reignite the excitement and full potential of the power of our faith experience. I will also continue to work hard to enable us to experience the expression of our original vision within the life of the Armenian Church.

I plan to establish a test “satellite” bible study/discussion group that will meet in a given geographic area in peoples’ homes to discuss bible topics and or other topics of Christian spiritual growth. As that evolves we will expand to other geographic areas.

I plan to offer other avenues for spiritual growth through adult retreats, seminars and other Christian programming.

The possibilities are tremendous if we work together. But, to begin our journey, we need to do our part. It is said, “Never ask God to help you walk, if you’re not willing to take a step.” We need to take the “step” to act with Christian faith, hope and love in the overall spirit of true humility, trusting in the grace of the Holy Spirit and the power of God’s love for us. We must abandon our will and subject it to God’s supreme Will. That is the only formula for success. It will be difficult. It will also be quite inconvenient at times. But, I can say unequivocally, that this will be extremely rewarding.

Let us all, as one family, trusting in the power of God’s love, come to know our Lord personally, so that we can exemplify His words in all we do when He said, "You are the light of the world. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

God Bless you all and God Bless the Armenian Church of The Holy Translators.

Prayerfully,

Der Krikor

5th Anniversary Information

Armenian Church of the Holy Translators 5th Anniversary Celebration and “Burning the Mortgage” Campaign.

The Armenian Church of the Holy Translators is planning to celebrate the 5th Anniversary of the consecration of the Church on October 18th and 19th, 2008. Along with the celebration, we will embark on a fundraising campaign to “burn the mortgage”. This campaign will include the consecration of a Khatchkar from Armenia and Memorial Park which will be built in the front of the Church, just to the left of the main entrance. The Khatchkar will be surrounded by a meticulously landscaped brick walkway which will display bricks donated by parishioners and friends of the Armenian Church of the Holy Translators. Along with the brick campaign, there are plans to undertake a capital campaign and allow newer families and friends to pledge monies and become part of the original effort. It is projected that the mortgage balance next October will be around \$45,000. These two efforts, coupled with a gala reception/dance planned for the Anniversary Weekend will all go toward the goal of burning the mortgage this coming October. The festivities are currently being planned. Saturday evening, October 18th, a gala reception/dance with an Armenian Band is scheduled to take place in the fellowship hall. On Sunday, October 19th, the Divine Liturgy, starting at 9:30am will be officiated by Archbishop Khajag Barsamian. Immediately following the Divine Liturgy will be the consecration of the Khatchkar and Memorial Park. Then, parishioners and friends will be invited to a 5th Anniversary Fellowship and Program to be held in the fellowship hall.

The brick campaign will be kicked off in late April. More information will follow. If you have any questions or would like to be part of this exciting committee, please feel free to contact Mark Kashghegian (617) 256-5358 who is coordinating this effort. Remember to save the dates...October 18 & 19, 2008.

It is during these months that we live the heart of the church year. Our parish has just concluded a very successful and joyful Christmas season, concluding with our celebration of the birth and baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ with Armenian Christmas. For the parish council, the weeks after the holiday season are always a busy time with the conclusion of the calendar/fiscal year and the preparation for the parish annual assembly. It is the responsibility of the parish council to prepare a quality accounting of the parish life with organizational reporting and financial overviews.

It is always challenging to do this right after the holiday period, but our parish members did a great job in submitting their reports and preparing financial documents. We congratulate those who will begin their service to the parish and thank those whose terms are concluding. This year the parish organized another successful Poon Paregentan celebration. We want to thank the dedicated members who worked together for the benefit of all.

This year we have had the unique opportunity to celebrate a milestone in Der Hayr's Ministry with 10th Anniversary of his Holy Ordination. The parish organized a beautiful weekend to recognize our dear priest and we were honored by the presence of His Eminence Archbishop Barsamian. We thank those who organized the beautiful reception on Saturday night. On Sunday, the Primate presented Der Hayr with a beautiful pectoral cross. We are also very proud of the children who received a blessing from Surpazan Hayr to serve at the altar and of the young men who were ordained tbirs and sub deacons. Their dedication and commitment is inspiring.

During this time public events in the parish lessen with our entrance into the period of Great Lent. Our Bible studies and Lenten services will continue during this time leading up to what we anticipate to be an uplifting Holy Week. During our parish council meeting in March, the transition will happen with newly elected and retiring parish council members. This year we will lose an additional member. As we all are aware, the Masoian family will be relocating to California. Jeff has served well as our treasurer this past year. This is a big loss for our community and a gain for the parish they join in California. We would like to thank Jeff for his dedicated service and pray for their happiness and success.

As we emerge from the Lenten period, we can anticipate a very active church calendar with some incredible events. The Armenian Chef night, our annual Golf Tournament and the Men's Fellowship night are all in the planning stages and promise to be exciting activities. We encourage everyone to participate. In the fall, but clearly in active committee planning, our parish will celebrate the 5th anniversary of the consecration of our church. There are a wide array of sub committees to join and participate in what promises to be a memorable weekend.

Once again, we are encouraged by overall activity level of the parish. We have some new families joining the community which is a blessing for us to embrace.

Our thanks to all of you for contributing to the success of Holy Translators.

Parish Council 2008

President <i>Fr. Krikor Sabounjian</i>	Treasurer <i>Parkoohi Voskianian</i>	Corresponding Secretary <i>Robin Palombo</i>
Chairman <i>Stepan Piligian</i>	Co-Treasurer <i>Russ Ohanian</i>	Advisors <i>Scott Aghababian</i>
Vice Chairman <i>Karnig Durgarian</i>	Recording Secretary <i>Reine Sayegh</i>	<i>Mark Kashgegian</i> <i>Jeff Masoian</i>
<hr/>		
Diocesan Delegate: <i>Tom Garabedian</i>		

The second half of our school year is in full swing.

First, we extend a warm welcome to our newest Sunday School students, Ella Stepanian, daughter of Julie and Paul Stepanian of Needham and Alina Donoian, daughter of Taleen and Steve Donoian who have just moved to Hopkinton.

Christmas Pageant; December 23, 2007 & January 5, 2007

Our Christmas Program was in two parts this year. Our Christmas Tableau was presented on December 23, 2007 with all our children participating in the re-enactment of the birth of Jesus. The Junior Choir performed all songs under the direction of Yeretzgin Luann. On Armenian Christmas Eve, our students presented a Christmas Story of Faith. The short play reminded us of how each and every day we welcome Jesus into our lives by showing kindness and generosity to others around us.



Christian Spirit Trophy; Awarded to Grade 3&4 on February 3rd:

We are pleased to announce that grade 3&4 was awarded the Christian Spirit Trophy for exemplifying good Christian behavior in the classroom, church and in their daily lives. Since September, students in all grades were working hard to demonstrate these Christian qualities and they all earned points for particular behaviors and acts. Students in grade 3&4 earned the most points. Therefore, they now have ownership of the trophy in their classroom until the end of April when it goes to the class who raises the most \$ for the Lenten drive.

Youth Choir; Sunday, February 10th & Palm Sunday, March 16th:

On the occasion of the visit of our Primate, Abp. Khajag Barsamian, the sub deacon and Tbir ordinations and Der Hayr's 10th anniversary celebration on 2/10 and Palm Sunday on 3/16, the newly formed youth choir joined the choir to sing during Badarak. We were all moved by the angelic voices especially when they sang Soorp Asdvadz and Miayn Soorp alone. We thank Diana Harotian for her commitment to helping to bring out the musical talents of our children through participation in the Badarak. The Youth Choir rehearses once a month and joins the choir every few weeks. We all realize that our choir has a promising future with such great vocal talent and commitment. Keep up the great work!

Lenten Drive; Feb-April

This year's fundraiser was targeted to benefit Camp Tzitzernak in Vanadzor, Armenia, a brief summer home to children ages 8 to 14 from villages throughout the Diocese. These children are from poor households and their experience at the camp is a wonderful respite from an otherwise difficult life. The camp lacks basic sanitation facilities - direly needed for the health and safety of the children. This has been a particularly meaningful outreach opportunity for our children since were helping other children in Armenia who are in need of a nurturing and safe camp environment



Since we missed the first few weeks of Lent due to ordinations and school vacation weeks, we have extended this fundraiser through mid April to give students enough time to raise and collect money each week. Many students showed enthusiasm as they have suggested ways that they are earning and/or raising money. We are very proud of our students and try to encourage them and give them opportunities to do good works.

The Armenian School is finding it hard to believe that half a school year has already gone by and only a few more months remain until the end of the school year! As always, we have been encouraged and impressed with our students, who make teaching extremely fun, and we thank the parents for their unwavering dedication to what we believe is vital and important – the gift of the Armenian language and culture to our precious parish children.

As you all are aware from the previous Armenian School article, we are thrilled to have 3 classes this year – the youngest level (Level 1) is comprised of our energetic 3-4 year olds, the middle level (Level 2) is comprised of our inspiring 5-7 year olds, and the oldest group (Level 3) is comprised of our hardworking 8-12 year olds. Again, we thank the enthusiastic parents of our Level 1 kids for rotating teaching duties weekly. We have been impressed with your optimism and talent that you bring every week to foster the love of the Armenian language in our youngest minds. Level 1 has been working hard at learning basic Armenian words through fun, play, crafts, and singing. They have focused on colors, body parts, numbers, counting, seasons/holidays, etc. Level 2 has been focusing on the Armenian alphabet and seem to, as a whole, love practicing writing out the letters of the Armenian alphabet. Level 2 has also been enjoying various games and crafts to further ensure and expand on their knowledge of the Armenian vocabulary. Their focus has been on family, fruits/vegetables, body parts, and seasons. Level 3 has been hard at work focusing on proper Armenian sentence building structure. Again, we would like to thank the ACYOA juniors who have volunteered to fill in as assistants in each of our 3 classes. We thank you for setting a good example to the younger kids and appreciate the energy you all bring to class each week. Along with their weekly lessons, all three classes have begun to practice for the end of the year Hantes, which will be held on Sunday, April 6th. We hope you, as a parish, come and show your encouragement and pride by attending the Hantes.

We would also like to remind you of other Armenian School events that have taken place and those that are up and coming. All of our parish children, under the age of 10, were invited to bring along an Easter basket from home as they enjoyed our Annual Easter Egg hunt held during Fellowship on Palm Sunday, March 16th. We are also thrilled and look forward to hosting for the 3rd year, the ever-popular Armenian Chef Armenia to be held on Saturday, May 10th. We hope you come and enjoy a night of delicious Armenian food, Armenian music, and a fun night of fellowship. Further details will follow, but we encourage anyone who is interested in being a chef for that day to contact Seta Abrahamian at 508-545-2727 or via email at seta.abrahamian@siemens.com as soon as possible.

We are looking forward to the next few exciting months ahead and as always, we encourage anyone interested in signing their children or themselves (Adult class is still available) up for class, to do so, since it is never too late to learn. If you are interested in signing up your child/ren, or you would like to volunteer as a teacher or aid, please contact Seta Abrahamian.

POON PAREGENTAN: Under the Big Top

by Nanar Keledjian

On Sunday, February 3rd, 2008, our parish celebrated Poon Paregentan together as a church family in the Fellowship Hall, which was transformed into a big top circus! Both, children and adults enjoyed the circus theme event.

Everyone participated in an afternoon of fun, food, crafts, face painting, and a children's treasure hunt, too. As a special treat, a puppet show was performed by the talented puppeteer, John McDonough, of Pumpernickel Puppets.

We would like to thank Lisa Gates, Susan Ciaffi, Seta Abrahamian, and Nanar Keledjian for organizing this fun-filled event. We would also like to thank the ACYOA youth who assisted with various activities during the afternoon, and especially Andrea Durgarian, who ran the children's treasure hunt. We are also very grateful for the many parishioners who made generous donations of food and funds as well as those who volunteered their time during the event. Thank you all for making Poon Paregentan a memorable event for the entire parish!



Armenian Church of the Holy Translators Eighth Annual Golf Tournament

Monday, June 9th

We look forward to seeing you at Sandy Burr Country Club in Wayland, Massachusetts!

Registration Begins at 8:00 AM

Tee-Off at 9:30 AM

Golf / Dinner / and Sponsorship Packages

\$1,500 Tournament Golf Sponsor includes one foursome, lunches, dinners, 200 raffle tickets,

name listing in program, and sponsorship sign on one hole.

\$1,000 Corporate Golf Sponsor includes two golfers, lunches, dinners, 100 raffle tickets, name listing in program, and a sponsorship sign on one hole.

\$500 Lunch Sponsor includes a sponsorship sign at lunch location throughout the day and name listing in the program.

\$250 The Whole Hole includes three sponsorship signs on one hole spanning from the tee, the 150 yard marker, all of the way to the green and name listing in program.

\$200 Individual Golfer Plus Raffle includes golf, lunch, dinner, and 50 raffle tickets.

\$165 Individual Golfer includes golf, lunch, and dinner.

\$100 Hole Sponsor includes a sponsorship sign on one hole and name listing in program.

\$ 35 Dinner option if you will be joining us for dinner only.



**Please see enclosed
Registration Form**



Questions? Interested in donating a raffle prize?

Please contact Scott Zouranjian (774) 232-0328

holytranslatorsgolf@verizon.net

Don't Miss Out, Register Today

Save the Date!!!!

Saturday, May 10, 2008 at 6:00 PM

3rd Annual



Whether you are an expert chef or amateur in training,
sign up for a specialty table and show us how to make your secret recipe!

All participants will taste their way through the stations and learn how to make these classic
dishes....

Hommus

Beuregs

Mante

Kataif

and many more...

Sign up information is available in the church hall ...
food and wine/drink will be provided \$20.00 adult admission, \$5.00 for children.
For more information please contact Seta Abrahamian @ (508)545-2727

or via email at seta.abrahamian@siemens.com.

Armenian Church of the Holy Translators

2008 MEMBERSHIP/STEWARDSHIP

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Occupation: _____

I was baptized _____
(Denomination, i.e. Armenian Church, Roman Catholic, Protestant, Other)

My Spouse was Baptized _____
(Denomination - i.e. Armenian Church, Roman Catholic, Protestant, Other)

His/Her Date of Birth _____ Occupation _____

Home phone _____ Fax _____ Email: _____

Work/Other _____ Fax _____ Email: _____

I/We have _____ children:

Name(s) _____ Date(s) of Birth: _____

Name(s) _____ Date(s) of Birth: _____

Name(s) _____ Date(s) of Birth: _____

Our Armenian Church of the Holy Translators Stewardship commitment for 2008 will be:

_____ \$3,600.00 _____ \$2,500.00 _____ \$1,200.00

_____ \$600.00 _____ \$300.00 _____ Other (Please Specify)

I have also enclosed my membership dues for 2008

(\$150 per adult) \$ _____ (\$75 per senior 65 and older/student 18 – 25) \$ _____

All Pledges to be fulfilled by December 31, 2008

If you would like to make your payment by credit card (MasterCard, Visa, or American Express), please circle the type of card, write in your card number, expiration date, and the amount you would like charged:

Visa/MC/Amex Acct Number _____

Expiration Date _____ / _____ Amount: \$ _____

Signature _____ Spouse Signature _____

Please return your membership/stewardship form and any payments to:

**Armenian Church of the Holy Translators
38 Franklin Street
Framingham, MA 01702**

Thank you for your support!

Thank You All!

Yeretzgin LuAnn and I would like to express our most heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all who helped to make the celebration of my 10th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood a wonderful and most humbling event. The love and support expressed by all who were able to attend the Saturday evening reception and Sunday Divine Liturgy as well as those who expressed their love through the many cards, letters and donations to our Parish will be forever imprinted on our hearts. A special thanks to Karnig and Karen Durgarian, who graciously hosted the evening, to Mark Kashgegian, who prepared a wonderful video presentation, to the ACYOA, led by Dannielle Seifel, who presented me with a awesome booklet of their thoughts, to Ron Tutunjian, who donated the wine, to Joe and Diane Strazzulla, who donated the flowers, as well as to the Parish Council, led by Stepan Piligian, who initiated this weekend.

This was a celebration for the 10th Anniversary of my ordination to the Priesthood. But it was not my celebration. This was our celebration. My Pastoral priesthood gains its meaning and value through all of you. We are much more than a Parish; we are a family; A Family in the true sense of the word. We love but we also argue; we laugh but we also cry; we support, but we also complain. But just like a true family at the end of the day we are always here for each other. And we all have a role and place in the life of our family. I just happen to have, through the calling of our Lord and the grace of God, the role of your Pastor. I have been entrusted with the ominous responsibility of bringing the love of our Lord to you all as well as to bring all of you to a personal and real relationship with Him. This is a responsibility, honor and privilege that I take most seriously, with fear and trembling. I know that one day I will be held accountable to our Lord for this responsibility I have been entrusted with. Over ten years ago, during my Ordination speech, I stated that my mission was to make the rich Tradition of our Church real and alive for my people. That mission holds true today. I look forward to continuing this mission together as we begin our next ten years.

This coming October 2008, we will celebrate another milestone in our short Parish life. We will celebrate the 5th Anniversary of the Consecration of our Sanctuary. I call each and every one of us to fully participate in the planning and execution of this wonderful event. May our 5th Anniversary be a stepping stone to a fruitful, God-pleasing future for the Armenian Church of the Holy Translators, where Faith, Family and Fellowship truly meet!

God Bless,
Der Krikor



"I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving. This will please the Lord." Psalm 69:30-31

Another Milestone in the life of the Armenian Church of the Holy Translators

Continure from page 1

The Primate also joined the parish the night before the ordinations of our young men to lead the commemoration of a milestone for our parish, the 10th anniversary of Fr. Krikor's ordination. For our faithful as well as many additional friends and family of Der Krikor, it was an outpouring of love and appreciation for the pastoral gifts Fr. Krikor has given our parish since it began. Fr. Krikor responded with words of his own love for his extended parish family. He also took the time to exemplify the spirit of giving, recognizing it with words of thanks and gifts for some of the many people who have given of themselves in the service of the parish since it began. Quoting "A Simple Prayer" by St. Francis of Assisi, Der Hayr noted, "it is by giving that we receive."

From within and beyond the parish, outpourings of congratulations came from sources as young and as close as Der Hayr's son Michael, and as far as from Baghdad and Archbishop Avak Asadourian, Primate of Iraq, a classmate of Der Hayr's at St. Nersess Seminary. "Other than just being a priest, my dad somehow finds the time to be an amazing father," Michael told the guests. "He is always encouraging me to follow my dreams and do the things that make me happy in life... and always there for me when I need to talk....I feel lucky to be his son," Michael beamed.

Noting their first meeting 35 years ago when at Seminary and tracing their paths since, Archbishop Avak noted that Der Hayr "also served the church as a seminarian and deacon long before your priestly ordination." He added, "I am sure of your dedication as a brave priests bringing your talent for the spiritual enrichment of the flock entrusted to your fatherly care... In the words of the immortal Badarak, which was the topic of your Master of Divinity thesis, may I say 'Arjhan yev eerav' is your work, Fr. Krikor."

Similar words of praise and well wishes came from several of Der Hayr's colleagues in the priesthood, including Fr. Aren Jebejian, pastor of St. Gregory Armenian Church in Chicago, Fr. Garabed Kochakian, pastor of St John Armenian Church in Southfield, Michigan, and from two other archbishops, our Primate and His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese. Commenting on Der Hayr's work organizing ministries and teaching at every age level, Fr. Garabed, who was also one of Fr. Krikor's sponsors at his ordination, noted that Der Hayr's "efforts have opened many doors and pathways, illuminated and sparked new flames of faith all the while guiding in your resolute and fatherly ways the children entrusted to your pastoral and spiritual care." Fr. Aren focused on Der Hayr's work beyond the parish: "You have touched the lives of hundreds of children through your ministry at St. Vartan Camp, St. Nersess Summer Conferences as well as numerous ACYOA Sr. & Jr. programs."

But the highlight of the evening's presentations and entertainment came from the person who knows him best when Der Hayr's wife LuAnn offered her "Top Ten Things learned from being Der Krikor's Yeretzgin". Referring to his references to sports in his sermons, Yeretzgin quipped in #3: "The beginning of Lent is like opening day. Sports and religion can be meshed into just about any sermon theme, with the best meaningful impact during play-offs, World Series and Super Bowls." Referring to his often-told parable about the desirability of a simple life as a Mexican Fisherman, she noted in item #2 that "On some days, being married to a Mexican Fisherman sounds like a pretty good life!" Among the many things Yeretzgin noted her thankfulness over these ten years for was Der Krikor's ability to "provide and continually try to promote an atmosphere of a loving and welcoming parish, where as a family, we gather to express our faith and obedience."

It was, all in all, a special night and a weekend of love, joy and thanksgiving, a celebration of worthy milestones and a continued testimony to the vibrancy and the wonderful feeling of familial love that has touched us all, from the Primate to the smallest child, for the parish where faith, family and fellowship meet.

The ACYOA has been very busy the past few months planning many upcoming events and activities. With a new year starting, the group has a lot to look forward to! Many of us attended the New England Regional Retreat in New Hampshire where we reunited with old friends, made new ones, learned more about who we are as individuals and how church and God play significant roles in our lives. We would also like to thank the Sabounjian family for opening up their home in New Hampshire to us for our annual Ski Weekend. During the Ski Weekend not only do we ski and snowboard but it is also a great opportunity for us to build stronger relationships with each other.

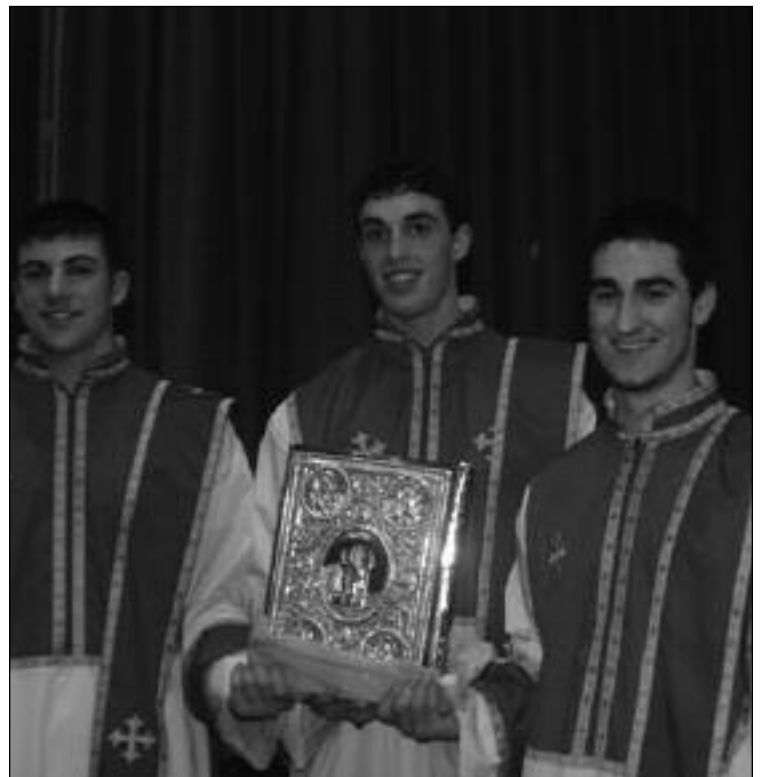
We have come up with many new community service ideas that we hope to start within the next few months. Some of these include: continuing to help at the Soup Kitchen, attend a work weekend at the Ararat Youth and Conference Center, and start a book drive.

In May we look forward to the annual Walk For Hunger where as a group we try to raise as much money as we can for this very worthy cause and have a fun day with each other walking the route. After the walk, we will have a group cook out at church. The annual Hye M'rtsoom is in May and we hope to start practicing our Volleyball skills to hopefully make it all the way to the finals and take home another trophy! As always we thank Der Krikor, Mr. Hyde, Mr. Zeytoonian, and all of the parishioners for the constant support and love.



**Sub Deacon Ordination by
Jeffrey Hyde,
Christopher Seifel
&
Michael Tutunjian**

It was with great honor that we were ordained as Sub-Deacons. We each had participated in services over the years as acolytes and in deacon training programs at St. Nersess. These past few months we had dedicated ourselves to learning more of our church history through weekly classes with Der Krikor. Our understanding of the Badarak and our new role as subdeacons continues our education in the Armenian Church and our heritage. We are truly honored to serve our Church and our Parish. We thank Der Krikor, the Parish Council, the Parishioners and our families for their encouragement and support.



The “Soup Kitchen” is a community outreach program of our church. Once a month volunteer parishioners, and sometimes their friends, gather at the Salvation Army building on route 126 in Framingham to cook and serve meals to 60 to 100 homeless people. We arrive at 4:30 p.m. to prepare and cook the food supplied by the Salvation Army for the supper that day. The meal is plated and served between 6:00 and 6:15pm. Our evening ends by 6:45 p.m.

Usually three adults prepare, cook and plate the meal with 3 to 4 youngsters serving supper and dessert. Later the adults clean the kitchen and all the pots and pans, while the youngsters clean the dining area. We all have a wonderful time working together in total harmony. Twice we brought the ingredients, and cooked the entire meal thanks to the generosity of Mrs. Dicranuhi Mergurian as a hokehankist meal for her mother, Helen, and Arshag Merguirian. The participants really like the Armenian food we serve them. It would be great if we could provide the meal every time we get a chance to serve. We should think about having a budget established by the church for this community outreach program to prepare an Armenian meal.

I would like to thank the many parishioners, and/or their friends, and our ACYO Jr. for volunteering. It is very clear to me that we receive more than what we give to our community. Our young get a very valuable life experience. They leave the building with a genuine smile on their faces. I urge you all to come and experience the joy. The remaining dates are: April 30, May 30, and June 25th.

April 24th Approaches

by Liana Harotian

As this April 24th approaches, so does the 93rd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. As Armenians, we all have probably heard many stories of the Armenian Genocide and know its impact on our people and culture, but may be unaware of the full story behind the traumatic event and the steps that are being taken today for its recognition.

The Armenian Genocide was the first major genocide of the 20th century. Armenians, members of a Christian country surrounded by Muslim nations, had always been persecuted due to their religious beliefs.

The systematic murders of the Armenians actually began in the late 1800s with the Sultan of the Ottoman Empire, Abdul-Hamid II, in his attempts to end the lives of thousands of Armenian civilians and destroy their land, businesses, and property. The idea was to weaken the Armenian nation as much as possible to prevent them from gaining too much independence within the Ottoman Empire.



This, however, was not nearly as devastating as the later attempt to exterminate the Armenian race as a whole; what we know as the Armenian Genocide. The Turkish national group known as the “Young Turks” under Talaat Pasha believed it was necessary for the Armenians to be wiped out as a race because they were gaining too much political power.

Starting in 1915, while the world was busy with World War I, able-bodied Armenian men were first gathered together and then publicly executed. The rest of the Armenian adults were then put under arrest and forced out of their houses on death marches across Anatolia and into the desert during which thousands perished of starvation and exhaustion. By the end of the massacres, 500,000 Armenians are estimated to have died.

Only a very small, very lucky percent of the victims escaped unscathed, and even they endured the emotional scars of the murders of their family, friends, and people.

Today, Armenians are working towards worldwide recognition of these events as genocide of their people. Though steps are being taken to pass legislation which will recognize the genocide completely, much work still has to be done for the plight of the Armenian people to be fully acknowledged. In Turkey, and even the United States, denial of these events and refusal to certify them as genocide continues to cause much strife and difference of opinion. For now, it is up to the Armenian people to pass on the flame of truth and heritage to future generations— just as the eternal flame of memorial burns in the Genocide Memorial in Armenia for all the lives lost.

Holy Translators Calendar

Sunday, April 20 – Lenten Drive Ends

Thursday, April 24 – Armenian Martyrs Day

Teen Ministry

Wednesday, April 30 – Alpha at 7 pm

Thursday, May 1 through Saturday May 3 – Diocesan Assembly

Sunday, May 4 – Walk for Hunger

Teen Ministry and ACYOA Dialogue after Walk for Hunger

Wednesday, May 7 – Alpha at 7 pm

Thursday, May 8 – Parish Council Meeting

Saturday, May 10 – Iron Chef Armenia – Season 3

Sunday, May 11 – Pentecost

Recommitment Service

Wednesday, May 14 – Alpha at 7 pm

Friday, May 16 – Youth Group 6 to 9 pm

Sunday, May 18 – Music Assembly and Junior Choir Rehearsal 11:30 to Noon

Sunday School Teachers Meeting at Noon

Last Day of Armenian School

Wednesday, May 21 – Alpha at 7 pm

Friday, May 23 to Monday, May 26 – ACYOA Hye Mrtsoom Week-end

Sunday, May 25 – No Sunday School or Armenian School Classes

Wednesday, May 28 – Alpha at 7 pm

Sunday, June 1 – Armenian School Promotion Day

Junior Choir Rehearsal 11:30 to Noon

Teen Ministry Class – 10:45 to Noon

ACYOA Meeting & Election – PM (Location to be determined)

Sunday, June 8 – Sunday School Graduation and Promotion Day

Monday, June 9 – Golf Tournament

Thursday, June 12 – Parish Council Meeting

Thursday, July 10 – Parish Council Meeting

Thursday, August 14 – Parish Council Meeting

Thank You

Our Church is very fortunate and blessed to have so many parishioners who give of themselves, their time and energy. As we all know, it takes each of us with all of our talents and gifts to help our church family grow and prosper.

Thank you to all those kind and generous individuals and families who have donated flowers and candles to adorn our altar on Sundays. The Church is especially grateful for the wonderful fellowships that we enjoy every Sunday. The fellowship is an important part of our community. We appreciate all the preparation and care that make our fellowships so special. We also thank those who have assisted in our Sunday School, Armenian School, ACYOA and the other church activities and events that make Holy Translators the place “where faith, family and fellowship meet”.

The Church always welcomes and encourages anyone who wishes and wants to participate, whether it is through the hosting of a fellowship or offering to contribute their time.

If you would like to offer your talents or assistance to any area of the Church – Sunday School, Armenian School, ACYOA, Special Events, Fellowship, Office Administrative Help, etc. – please contact Parish Council Chairman Karnig Durgarian or any of the Parish Council Members. They will be happy to direct you to the appropriate person.

“You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us”. 2 Cor. 9:11

Armenian Church of the Holy Translators
38 Franklin Street
Framingham, MA 01702
508-875-0868
Email: frkrikor@holymtranslators.org
Website: www.holymtranslators.org
Church Office Hours:
Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Please call first.

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 183