



## **ARMENIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION**

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1 November 2004

### **Dear parishioners and members of our Community**

It is with great pleasure and satisfaction we announce to you that on October 20<sup>th</sup> 2004 we saw the formation of the NSW Parliament's Armenian Friendship group. This group comprises of more than 40 NSW parliamentarians from both sides of the House and from all political parties.

An invitation to attend this special occasion was received by our church Council and we are happy to announce that Fr Parsegh and a representative of the Church council attended that ceremony. This is indeed a milestone for all Armenians in Australia and we take this opportunity to congratulate all those involved in achieving this objective. We are happy to include a news release from the Premier's department.

### **PREMIER CARR LAUNCHES NSW-ARMENIAN PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP GROUP**

The premier of NSW, Mr Bob Carr today joined with the NSW Armenian community in formally launching the bi-partisan NSW Armenian Parliamentary Friendship Group at state Parliament.

Mr Carr has also agreed to be a co-patron of the Parliamentary Friendship Group with leader of the Opposition, Mr John Brogden - and State Labour MP for Ryde and Police Minister, Mr John Watkins has also agreed to be a convenor, with the Member for Willoughby, Ms Gladys Berejikian.

In NSW, there are around 35,000 people of Armenian Ancestry - with the largest community in the local government areas of Ryde, followed by Warringah, Willoughby, Fairfield, Parramatta, Hornsby and Lane Cove.

The Friendship Group is one of the largest in the NSW Parliament with around 45 members - across the political spectrum.

It is one of the largest parliamentary friendship groups in State Parliament.

In his address, Mr Carr commented on his long-standing friendship with the Armenian Community.

Mr Carr presented the NSW government's record on issues concerning the community, including the recognition and condemnation of the Armenian Genocide of 1915.

"The Armenian Australian community have a lot to be proud of," Mr Carr said.

"They are important and hard working members of the NSW community"

"I hope the NSW Armenian Parliamentary Friendship group will help further strengthen relations with NSW and the Republic of Armenia, including stronger trade relations and closer cultural collaboration," Mr Carr Said.

## **Why I was not present at St Gregory's Armenian school's Annual Concert?**

Many parishioners and parents were inquisitive as to why I was not present at St Gregory's Annual concert. The simple reason I can give our parishioners and community is the fact that I was **never invited by the Board of St Gregory's school**. Even though St Gregory's constitution states that the Armenian Catholic priest shall be the spiritual leader of that school. It is most unfortunate that the board of St Gregory's spreads unfounded accusations about the church and our intentions. We want to get the records straight once and for all.

It is our sincere wish to see St Gregory's school doors open for all times, it has always been our wish to see it grow and prosper. But unfortunately we have serious reservations about the current school board and their style of management.

## **Gift to Armenia**

The Westmead Hospital of Sydney has, through the efforts of Dr Arman Babajanyan, donated special cardiological equipment to a Yerevan Hospital. This equipment is valued at more than \$50000 and it will go a long way in providing free medical treatment to children with complicated heart problems. The cost to transport this equipment was borne by our parish. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Westmead Hospital for their kind and humanitarian gesture; also we would like to convey our sincere gratitude to all those parishioners who have donated money towards the cost of transportation of the equipment. Our special thanks to the Mr Bedros Sinian who has organised the transportation of the equipment to Armenia.

## **Wedding Anniversary:**

Mr & Mrs Sarkis & Berjouhi Majarian celebrated their Golden (50th Anniversary) on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2004. Just before the commencement of Mass they received the blessing of Fr Parsegh whilst they renewed their vows. It was indeed a touching moment for all present as the couple strolled down the aisle accompanied with the blast of the organ playing "here comes the bride". The happy couple were surrounded by their four children who bore witness to the occasion. It is interesting to note that the happy couple married exactly 50 years ago to the day and to the hour. After the ceremony and the Mass, the couple and the family, received all the well wishers at the Hall where a special cake and coffee was served to mark the happy occasion. Fr Parsegh presented the happy couple with the medallion of the blessed Ignatius Maloyan and with a short speech in which he praised the couple for their love to one another, and their exemplary life as Armenian Christians, who have given so much of their lives to the service of their church. We take this opportunity to wish them a happy and a healthy long life and pray that the Almighty shower them with his blessings through the remaining of their lives. Happy Honey Moon

## **First Holy Communion**

A number of children who are being prepared by Fr Parsegh for their First Holy Communion will finally approach the Altar to receive their first Holy Communion on the first Sunday of December. The ceremony will be extra special as it is the first for Fr Parsegh in Sydney. Many family and friends will attend the happy occasion. And to mark the happy occasion, the Church Hall will be appropriately decorated and as per usual luncheon will be served being the first Sunday of the month. We invite all our parishioners and community to join us in celebrating this happy occasion.

## **November Program:**

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup>** - First Friday mass of the Holy Heart of Jesus at 10.30 am followed by seniors club activities. We remind all our parishioners to keep this date in mind and try to attend if their time permits.

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>** – First Sunday Luncheon, The Menu is something special and new “Shawourma” The Luncheon on this occasion will be donated by Messrs Qasabian and H Boladian We would like all our parishioners to join us as it is also the day the Raffle for the Digital camera and printer will be drawn.

Any parishioner who wishes to volunteer and donate the next Luncheon , please contact Fr Parsegh or any member of the Ladies Auxiliary.

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup>** – Bingo night 7.30 pm, to all our bingo specialists we have many and interesting prizes to be won. So be there.

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup>** – Seniors Club – we wish to remind all our senior members that the club activities will commence at 10.30 and we will be serving tasty lunch as per usual. Please ensure to bring a friend with you.

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup>** – Movie night- A new comic Movie will be screened “Mr Bones” The screening will commence at 7.30 sharp, and as usual the kiosk will be open to serve some delicious savouries.

## **Weddings**

10<sup>th</sup> October 2004 - George Golossian & Julie Baqleh

23<sup>rd</sup> October 2004 Mervyn Samuel Grigg & Silvia Tchilinguirian

Our sincere congratulations to the newly weds and we pray that the almighty will bless them and give a long and happy life.

## **Engagements**

Berj Totonjian and Belinda Riotto 28th November 2004

## **Baptisms**

Baby Isabella Eliza Molly Majarian daughter of Avedis & Nicola on the 8<sup>th</sup> August

Baby Christian Hijzein son of Hanna & Vartine on the 8<sup>th</sup> August

## **St Gregory's Statue in St Peters Basilica in the Vatican**

On the occasion of the 1700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Armenia's adoption of Christianity, His beatitude Nerses Bedros 19<sup>th</sup> Catholicos Patriarch of the Armenian Catholics has officially requested from Pope John Paul II, to raise the statue of St Gregory's the Illuminator in St Peters Basilica. We are happy to inform our parishioners that this has been now realised and on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2005, a solemn Mass will take place and during which Pope John Paul II will unveil the Statue.

We wish to all our parishioners and community members that this statue weighs 26 tons and its height is 5.70 meters. The Marble used is from Carrara Italy, the same mine where The Famous Michael Angelo. Got this marble for his famous Pieta, The sculpture is none other than Mr Khatchig Kazanjian of France.

Total cost of the statue US\$ 250.000. Any parishioner who wishes to contribute towards this monument may forward his or her donation to:

**Association Alliance Armenienne- Statue de St Grgoire**

**10 Bis Rue Thouin, 75005 Paris – France.**

**See enclosed brochure.**