



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

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Dear Parishioners

Last Sunday, after lengthy consultations with the Church Council, I have announced, during my sermon, that we will be commencing a Saturday school within our parish. This project was lingering in my mind, since my arrival in Sydney two years ago. However, I had decided to wait and assess the situation and get the necessary vibes from all our parishioners. Lately, it has become too clear to me that, the time has come for our parish to embark on such a venture. Our basic mission is to teach religion and the Armenian Language. There are many children who do not have the opportunity to learn these subjects. This is the group of children that we are targeting, and so far the response has been tremendous. Of course the school is open for all, and we welcome anybody who feels that he or she wants to improve their Armenian. The school will also provide numerous other activities such as, singing, screening of interesting movies, games, and from time to time, organize educational excursions for the children. We also envisage developing a drama and dancing groups.

We anticipate having the Saturday school doors open in the New Year, February 2005. We will be doing our utmost to have all necessary preparations completed in time to successfully begin this very important project within our parish.

I appeal to all our parishioners to take advantage of this opportunity and register the names of your children as soon as possible. Also I call upon all those parishioners who can assist in any capacity in the abovementioned project (on a voluntary basis) to give me a call soon. Your full support is of paramount importance to me.

News from the Diaspora

CONFERENCE IN VENICE 28-30 October 2004

Armenian and Turkish relations over a thousand years

The Institute for Venice and Europe of the Giorgio Cini Foundation has conceived and organised an international conference involving historians, philosophers, jurists, psychoanalysts, and experts on politics and human rights from Europe, the United States, Armenia, Israel and Turkey.

The conference analyzed the relations between Armenians and Turks from the middle Ages to the tragedy of the Armenian genocide in the early 20th century and beyond. The analysis focused on general aspects and theoretical issues (philosophical, legal, historiographical, and psychoanalytical), but at the same time some specific historical cases also were presented.

The conference had five sessions in which the following topics were made object of discussion: the notion and typologies of "genocide" (Portinaro, Charny, Chalk), its psychological repercussions (Piralian), the demographic question (Kévorkian), the state of archives' research (Adalian), negationism (Ternon), relations between Armenians and Turks from the Seljuk Age through the Ottoman Empire to the Republican Period (Safrastyan), the complicity of Imperial Germany (Goltz), the itihadist solution and Turkish republican identity (Akçam), the relation between discourse, reality, and Turkish national imagination (Berktay), interethnic relations in Anatolia from the Ottoman period on (Zarakolu), the situation of Armenians today in Turkey (Kentel), the "Armenian question" and human rights (Belge), the bases of international legal responsibility (Margaryan), the roots of taboos and relapses (Oran), the acknowledgement of the Armenian Genocide by the European States (Ferrari), and various other questions as the placement of the Armenian case in the frame of the Genocides of the 20th century, the sense of guiltiness, the problem how to explain to Turkish public opinion the Armenian Genocide after decades of amnesia and negation, its importance in the frame of contemporary European history, etc.

The idea of such a conference was originated from the awareness of the current stalemate due to denial and the impossibility of dialogue. The new historical perspective, adopted by the conference, viewing Armenian-Turkish relations in their centuries-long and multifarious aspects, combined with the tools provided by a long-term interdisciplinary approach, invites us and may help to go beyond the separate analysis of specific cases to overcome the obstacles still hindering an effective approach to the topic.

General Ecumenical conference in Rome 10-14 October 04

On the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of Unitatis Redintegratio (Ecumenical Movement) which was an outcome of Vatican II 21.10.64. Bishops and other Church leaders from all over the world were present and Archbishop Miriyatian Archbishop of Aleppo was the representative of the Armenian Catholic Church.

The purpose of the meeting was to assess the effects of the movement and to attempt to bring forward a new Agenda for the future.

We pray for the success of the movement so as to realize the overall union of the churches.

In Memoriam

With Immense sorrow, we announce the passing away of Mgr Krikor Bedrossian (Petrovic) on 17 /11/04, He was 88years old. Professor and Doctor Krikor Bedrossian was born in Poland. He spoke more than 10 languages fluently, including Latin, Greek, Russian Polish / French and Italian.. He spent more than 62 years in the priesthood. He also was the secretary to the late Cardinal Aghajanian. He was a lecturer and a Historian. He is officially recognized as such in Poland and Armenia. He was the author of many historical books but its suffice to mention one of them – “The History of Armenians In Poland “ From 13th century onwards, the interesting aspect of this book was that it contained more than 11000 references.

Pope John Paul II personally bestowed the title of Monsignor on him in 1982. He was also the first Armenian Catholic priest to receive an honorary citizenship of Armenia from President Kocharian in 1997 in Rome.

We sincerely convey our condolences to his immediate family and we pray that the Lord have mercy on his Soul and that may he grant him eternal peace.

Local News

Parish General Meeting

The Parish Council is contemplating of having a general meeting of all Parishioners in February 2005. The purpose of such a meeting is to report on the affairs of our Parish since the arrival of Fr Parsegh. The Council proposes to give an up to date report about the church finances and all the other activities that are being taken within our Church. The council also wishes to outline short term and long term projects for the Parish. Special invitations will be sent to all our Parishioners in due course.

1ST Holy Communion 05/12/04/

The First Sunday in December will be a special day for many families within our Parish. It will also be an important phase in the life of all the children receiving the Holy Sacrament. This is also a memorable day for Fr. Parsegh as it is his first since his arrival in Sydney. The Church and the Church hall will be appropriately decorated for the occasion by the ladies Auxiliary. We invite all our parishioners to join us in celebrating this special Mass on this happy occasion. To mark the occasion, the Church Council and Ladies Auxiliary will hold a small function in the church hall where a special cake will be cut for the children and their families. All are invited.

NB: The usual 1st Sunday food Luncheon will now take place on 2nd Sunday 12/12/04 due to the abovementioned ceremony. We apologize for our error in the last bulletin.

Luncheon 12/12/04

Due to popular demand the council will be offering (Shawerma Kebab) again and we hope to see you in great numbers. So keep this date in mind and do not forget to tell your friends and family members, the more the merrier. The cost of the food will be donated by Mr. and Mrs. Artin Etmekjian. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their generous contribution to the Church.

Christmas Eve Party (Friday 24th December)

Once again we remind our parishioners (especially those with young Children) to secure their tickets from the Ladies Auxiliary, as we have mentioned in our last bulletin, we have limited number of tickets. Santa will be coming, as usual, bringing great gifts for the children. **HO! HO! HO!**

A welcome New Addition

Our congratulations and best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Magar and Azadouhi Opyan on the birth of their first Grandson Michael Christian, on 25th November 2004. Our congratulations go also to the proud parents Joseph and Caterina Opyan. We wish them all a happy and healthy long life.

Thank you, letter from Armenia.

We wish to convey our heartfelt gratitude to Fr Parsegh Sousanian and Mr. Bedros Sinian and the Armenian catholic Community of Sydney for their efforts to transport the Medical equipment to our Hospital in Yerevan which was donated by the West mead Public Hospital in western Sydney. Through your generosity and kind efforts many children in Armenia will be treated and cured from otherwise untreatable diseases.

Many thanks.

Respectfully Yours – General Manager – Lita Mouratian& Hovhanness Zohrapian-Yerevan/Armenia.

Festive Season -Christmas Program

Friday 24th December 7.00pm- Christmas Eve Vigil Mass

Saturday 25th December 11.00am Christmas Sung Mass

Sunday 26th December Boxing Day Sunday Mass 11.00am

Sunday 2nd January 2005 Mass 11.00am

Sunday 9th January (Baptism of Christ) Mass 11.00am

Monday 10th January (Day of the Dead) 10.00 am Blessing of the tombs at Rookwood Armenian Cemetery followed immediately by Mass (if weather permits) at the Cemetery Altar otherwise Mass will be held at Church as usual.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year