

August 2008



ARMENIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Dear all,

The month of July indeed proved to be a somewhat hectic month for our parish and for many of our parishioners. It began as expected with the arrival of the World Youth day pilgrims from Aleppo; a week later they were followed by His Eminence Bedros Miriatian Archbishop of Aleppo.

On Sunday 13th July

As we have mentioned in our last bulletin His Eminence Bedros Miriatian presided over the



Sunday Holy mass at our church which was packed with worshipers and pilgrims. It was a beautiful sung Mass and the choir performed wonderfully indeed. His Eminence informed the throngs just after the homily, that he had a special errand to fulfil on behalf of His Beatitude Catholicos Bedros XIX, Patriarch of the Armenian Catholics; And that was to hand Fr. Parsegh a sceptre and a cross as a gesture of appreciation for the work he has carried out in Sydney in the past 6

years. It is a great honour to receive such a gift from His beatitude. This ceremony was somewhat emotional for Fr. Parsegh but a loud applause from all present revived his spirits. This, no doubt, reflected the happiness and approval of all the parishioners. The church was packed with many worshipers as well as those who came specially to greet His Eminence.

After the holy mass a sumptuous luncheon was given in honour of the pilgrims, the Archbishop and the Church Council members and their wives.

Pilgrims Arrival

Upon their arrival the pilgrims were immediately placed in the care of their respected host families who had the pleasant task of chauffeuring them to and from church on a daily basis. This was, of course, a first, so far as our church and parishioners were concerned; but nevertheless, everything went like clockwork,



thanks to the diligence of all our host families and the full dedication of our volunteers from the ladies auxiliary Group.

There is no doubt in our minds that only on rare occasions like these the true spirit, fellowship and cooperation of a community comes through and shines; and we are proud to say that our parish and community, once again, rose to the occasion and fulfilled its duties and obligations in a smooth and loving manner. This was indeed a very positive experience for both, pilgrims and their host families, and it was not hard to see how it reflected on the faces of both parties. This is how sometimes lifetime friendships and relationships are forged and one never knows when people will meet again, since the world has become such a small place.



Part of the pilgrim's itinerary was to spend three days in Wollongong where they received some spiritual guidance and instructions. They also made a lot of site seeing excursions to various points of interest around Sydney, the various beaches (Manly and Bondi), Taronga Zoo park, Darling Harbour, Saint Mary's Cathedral, The Shrine of Mary Mackillope, The Hunter Valley wineries, just to mention a few.

After a long night's vigil of the youth at Randwick racecourse, The Holy Father's (Pope Benedict) Mass on Sunday 21st July signalled the end to the World Youth Day celebrations.



The world Youth Day program, as far as our church was concerned, came to an end after a huge farewell party which was organized by the Church Council and the Ladies Auxiliary; In addition to the pilgrims all the host parents and their families were invited and we were thrilled with the huge response from all the families. Although the party

was organized by the church, many families also contributed in providing assorted foods and sweets for the night. The night was a tremendous success and it lasted till the wee hours of the morning. Dancing and singing continued till the end and everyone joined in and had a ball. It was indeed a memorable night and we believe it will stay in our memory for many years to come.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank Archbishop Bedros Miriatian and Fr. Hovsep Bezejian who organized and made this pilgrimage possible; and we especially would like to thank Fr. Hovsep for taking on such a huge responsibility to look after these young men and women for such a long period; we also wish to congratulate him for his selection criteria, the youths exemplary behaviour and discipline. We would like to wish him all the best for the

future. May the Lord give him a long and healthy life so that he may be an instrument to serve his fellow compatriots and his beloved church for many years.

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses"
[Acts 1:8]

We wish to take this opportunity to thank all the host families, Mr & Mrs Hagop Guvlekjian, Mr & Mrs Avedis Qasabian, Mr & Mrs Kevork Gharibian, Mr & Mrs Garo Tcherkezian, Mr & Mrs Khatchig Majarian, Mr Fredy Hazari, Mr &

Mrs Abdulahad Madfouni, Mr & Mrs Bashir Babik, Mr & Mrs Bashar Kahwati, Mr & Mrs Artin Etmekjian, Mrs Antoinette Halwagi, Mr & Mrs Raffi Halwagi, Mr & Mrs Hermez Diarbakerli. The ladies Auxiliary, the volunteers Mr & Mrs Robert Hazari, and all the hands that prepared all that delicious food and sweets Mr & Mrs Barkev Boyajian, Mr & Mrs Garo Tcherkezian, Mr & Mrs Harout Boladian, Mrs Arpine Boladian, Mr & Mrs Hagop Guvlekjian; may God bless them and bless their families and may He keep them as pillars of our beloved church

Dinner dance 12.7.08

These years, our Annual Dinner Dance was brought forward by three weeks as it was under the auspices of His Eminence Archbishop Bedros Miriatian of Aleppo, who arrived in Sydney to take part in the world youth Day celebrations. Other guests and dignitaries were also invited to the Dinner Dance including His Eminence Aghan Baliozian, Reverend Krikor Youmoushakian, and His Grace Bishop Malatius Malki.

The Dinner dance as usual it was held at the Bankstown Emporium Function Centre and all our regular supporters were present. The pilgrims could not attend as they were in Wollongong.

After the initial welcoming speeches of the president of the Church Council and Fr Parsegh, The guest of Honor His Eminence was invited to say a few words and bless the food. Once again, we were entertained by the ever so young "Karnig" and his one man band. Many raffle tickets were sold and many valuable prizes donated from Mr Jack Diodati, Mr Raffi Akelian, Mr Zohrab Keverian were won. A beautiful handmade mother of pearl multifunctional backgammon table was auctioned off, and after some fierce bidding it went to Mr. George Shad who, God bless him and his family, is always there to support our community.

All in all we had a great night and all our guests enjoyed themselves fully. We wish to thank all our family of supporters and we hope to see them in greater numbers next year.

We wish to thank all our Council members for their dedication and untiring efforts in supporting their Church.

Dinner with Archbishop of Aleppo

On Thursday 24th July, the Church council and Fr. Parsegh treated the Archbishop of Aleppo



His Eminence Bedros Miriatian to a sumptuous dinner at the famous city landmark, the Sydney Tower, where His Eminence was afforded the opportunity to have a bird's eye view of our beautiful city. During dinner, His Eminence was presented with a small gift on behalf of the Armenian Catholic Community to serve as a token of appreciation and friendship. The gift was an impressive hard cover book about Australia and a DVD about Sydney and its environs.

We hope they will enrich, in a humble way, his personal library.

Feast of Our Lady of the Assumption 17th of August

Sunday 17th of August is the feast of Our Lady of the Assumption it is customary in the Armenian tradition to bless the first harvest of the Grapes.

As usual the Ladies Auxiliary will be holding their Bazaar on Sunday the 17th of August; I am sure many of you are looking forward to that event and I believe the Ladies are preparing many surprises for us this year including our famous Kebab; We wish to remind our parishioners that it will be only a one day affair, so mark your calendars so that you don't miss out. Your support is vital to the well being of our church, and we would like to see many of parishioners and friends joining us with their children on that family fun filled day.

Climate change

Dear all, it is true that the last six weeks have been somewhat on the cold side, and it is always nice to huddle up next to a fire place or a heater or whatever that resembles a warming apparatus. This phenomenon is very normal and human and we are all in the same boat in this regard. However, some of us may be affected more than others by letting the cold affect them beyond the physical. What we really want to convey to you is, that let us not allow the cold affect our hearts and dampen our enthusiasm and spirit towards our church; it is like any other sport, if we want to get good at it and benefit from it to get fitter and stronger, we must regularly practice at it; So the message is clear and simple, our dear readers, let us acclimatize our selves, and forget whether it is hot or cold or whether it's summer or winter, and make that worthwhile effort to pay our respect to our Lord who had sacrificed so much for us for our salvation; and even though this world of ours is going through an undisputed climate change, let us not let it affect the climate within our hearts and minds and especially within our great family unit, which is our beloved church.

I am sending you this letter by one of my disciples. I just wanted to let you know how much I love and care about you and how I greatly desire to become a meaningful part of you life. This morning when you awoke, I was already there with you in the light of My beautiful sunshine that filled your room. I was hoping that would say good morning to Me; but you didn't. So I thought maybe it was just a little to early in the day to notice Me. Again, I tried to get your attention when you stepped out the door, I kissed your face with a soft gentle breeze. I breathed upon my fragrant sweet breath scented flowers.

Then I sang a love song through the birds in the trees. You just walked right past Me. Later on that day, I watched over you as you were talking with some friends. Oh, how I wished you would talk to me also. I waited and waited, but you just went on your way. This afternoon I sent you a refreshing shower and glistened to you from every rain drop. I even shouted to you a line or to with thunder trying to get your attention. Then I painted you a lovely rainbow in the midst of my fluffy white clouds. I just know you would see Me then, but you were unaware of My presence. This evening to close your day, I sent you a beautiful sunset. After that, I winked at you a thousand times through My stars hoping you would wink back; but you never did. Tonight hen you went to bed, I spiled moonlight upon your face to let you know that I was there with you. I was hoping that you would walk with Me a little while before you went to sleep. You never said a word. It hurt Me deeply; however, I continued to watch over you all through the night thinking maybe, just maybe you would say hello to Me in the morning.

Each and every day, I have revealed Myself to you in many strange and wondrous ways hoping that you would except Me as your Shepherd. For, I am the only one that can supply you with all your needs. My love for you is deeper than the deepest ocean and bigger than the great blue sky. I have so much to give you and also share with you. Please let Me hear from you soon.

Your loving friend Jesus