



**Eastern Prelacy  
of the Armenian Apostolic  
Church of America**

Executive Council

Summary of Annual Report 2009-2010

National Representative Assembly

May 13-15, 2010

New York

# Introduction

Mission:

- To teach the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ
- To promote the religious, educational, cultural, and the social issues relevant to the Armenian people.

*"The Armenian Church  
is the Birthplace of my soul"*

*Vahan Tekeyan*

# Introduction

Prepare for the future:

- Challenges to integrate our rich past, into the present and future needs for the next 50 years
- Maintaining a balance, without losing sight of the mission
- Faith, community, heritage and family, is the very core of our existence

# The Prelate & Vicar

- Oshagan Srpazan has conclude his 3<sup>rd</sup> term as our Prelate. Thank him for his continued leadership and spiritual guidance. Wish him all the best in his dedicated service to our church
- Anoushavan Srpazan as Vicar General and/or Ecumenical Officer continues to bring his share to the success, by maintaining regular communication with our clergy. Thank him and wish him also the best in his great service

# Religious and Lay Councils

- Although the RC & EC are two separate bodies, regularly meet jointly as a single body
- Held 12 regular meetings, including 2 teleconference meetings
- Maintained constant communication between the Srpazan's, RC, EC & office.

# Parish and Other Visitations

- Prelate & Vicar maintained a heavy travel schedule:
  - Visiting the churches and communities
  - Celebrate the Divine Liturgy
  - Preside over religious services, banquets, anniversary celebrations and cultural programs
  - Meet with the pastors, BOT, Church affiliated auxiliary bodies, the rep. of sister org. and the faithful at large
  - Maintaining ecumenical ties, participating various services and events
  - Constantly addressing the needs of our churches and communities
- EC members also visited or were delegated to attend special meetings and events at various communities

# Office Staff and Administration

- No changes in the Prelacy staff
- We extend our thanks to the members of the staff who perform their daily tasks diligently, and with great dedication.

# External Relations

## A. The Holy See of Etchmiadzin and her Dioceses

- Maintained communications
- Oshagan Srpazan met with Karekin Vehaper
- Oshagan & Khajag Srpazans (co-chairmen of the joint committee), met to assess and coordinate the work of 5 sub-comm., studying diff. issues of the church
- Anoushavan Srpazan participated sub-committee meeting for canonizing our Martyrs
- Dr. Vazken Ghougassian, our Exec. Dir., participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> Global Armenian Library Conf., in Armenia

# External Relations

## B. The Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia and Sister Prelacies

- Maintained extensive & direct communic. with Aram Vehapar
- Close cooperation at all levels continued with Western USA & Canadian Prelacies

### 1.Meeting with Aram Vehapar and the Central EC

- Nov. 09: our World Delegates & EC presented a det. report/position paper
- Well-received and discussed
- Vehapar shared his thoughts and pledged full support & cooperation.
- Emphasized maintaining further close cooperation by 3 prelacies and the Catholicosate



# External Relations

## C. The Republics of Armenia and Artsakh

- Maintained close relations w/ government officials
- Aram Vehapar & Oshagan Srpazan:
  - Strongly opposed certain conditions included in the Armenian-Turkish protocol
  - Thru meetings and letter, expressed certain concerns against the Protocol to government official of Armenia & U.S. Secr. of State

## D. The Republic of Lebanon

- Continued close relationship w/ government officials

# External Relations

## E. Armenian Organizations

- Maintained normal relations with all social, political, charitable, religious, educational and patriotic org. & instit.

## F. Ecumenical Ties

- Maintained in a reg. manner
- Various occasions, Oshagan & Anoushavan Srpazans repr. the Holy See at the WCC in the US & UN
- Oshagan Srpazan participated in the Joint Commission for Theological Dialogue between the Roman Catholic and Oriental Orthodox Churches



# OUR CLERGY

- Prelate and Vicar
- 25 clergymen
  - 15 in active service
  - 1 in training
  - 1 visiting priest from Canada
  - 8 retired (only 2 are able to serve as outreach priests)
- We express our gratitude to all of our clergy for their dedicated services

# OUR CLERGY

## **A. Passing of Archpriest Torkom Hagopian**

- Served 4 communities of upstate NY, 33 years at St. Stephen's Church and during retired years as outreach priest
- May his memory be eternally blessed

## **B. Passing of Archpriest Anoushavan Artinian and Archpriest Vatche Nakashian**

- Both priests served briefly; Indian Orchard & Whitinsville; before moving / serving in CA.
- We pray God to rest the souls in eternal peace

# OUR CLERGY

## C. New Assignments

- Der Vazken: visiting pastor to North Andover
- Hayr Keghart: visiting Pastor to Niagara Falls
- Hayr Vaghinag: outreach clergyman for 2 months
- Newly ordained priest Der Karekin arrived in October. Temporarily in training for a few months under the supervision of Der Antranig in Watertown. Shortly he will be assigned for full time pastorship.

# OUR CLERGY

## D. Candidates for Priesthood

- Deacon Sebouh: college educated, completing 3rd year in Antelias, past year enrolled in graduate studies, this summer he will be married and join our Prelacy as an ordained priest in early 2011
- Deacon James: American born college educated candidate, completing 3rd year in Antelias, expected to continue his studies for another year

## E. Sts. Ghevontiank Clergy Conf.

- Annual conference took place in Feb. at Indian Orchard
- Time of renewal, reflection, education, and fellowship.  
(Detailed info. in RC report).



# OUR CLERGY

## F. Continuing Education

- Der Nareg completed M.A. degree in Pastoral Theology. We congratulate him and wish further achievements
- Der Gomidas is continuing his part-time graduate studies
- Hayr Daniel has started his graduate studies in pastoral theology
- Der Karekin is enrolled in an advance English Language course at Harvard

## G. Clergy Retreat

- 2<sup>nd</sup> annual retreat in Sept., at Coptic Retreat in MA (Details in RC report)



# OUR PARISHES

- EC devoted a great deal of time and effort to reach out
- 3 regional conferences were organized for pastors, BOT and NRA Delegates
- BOT guidelines were drafted and currently are under final editing
- EC rep.s were able to attend the GM meetings of most parishes, events or special meetings
- A few parishes, require special attention and assistance
- Generally speaking; parishioners, BOT, NRA delegates, and Pastor must come together as one body for the betterment of their spiritual health
- A brief comment for each parish noted in the full report

# FINANCIAL ISSUES RELATED TO OUR PRELACY

## A. General Comments

- Bad economy has directly impacted our communities and Prelacy
- Operating costs rising and struggling to match revenue; cut where needed
- Re-paid the Bank Audi loan
- Made investment and improved on technology issues
- Conducted thorough analysis of the quota allocations; most communities will see no change
- Quota is 42% of budgeted revenue; essential for daily operation
- Current outstanding quota amount is approx. \$100K
- Acknowledge and thank those parishes that pay their quotas in a timely manner

# FINANCIAL ISSUES RELATED TO OUR PRELACY

## B. Annual Fundraising

- Revenue resources and programs: Pillar's program (drop in revenue), the annual raffle (incr. revenue), Azkayin Doork, and the Diary (incr. revenue).
- Essential to embark on successful fundraising:
  - Prelacy building project
  - All programs
  - Offset uneven patterns of revenue
  - Target new audiences, new resources

# FINANCIAL ISSUES RELATED TO OUR PRELACY

## **C. Endowment Fund**

- Investments were impacted; fortunately positioned to sustain such a crisis
- No distrib. from the funds this year; expect to make distrib. to our communities where and when needed

## **D. Vartan Fund**

- Establ. to aid our Prelacy and School in Ainjar, Lebanon
- Distrib.: 75% Prelacy & 25% School
- The fund was valued at \$1.8 million
- Portion used to close Prelacy external debt and a day-to-day operations
- In recognition, \$650K was set aside in the name of John Vartan

# FINANCIAL ISSUES RELATED TO OUR PRELACY

## E. Pillars Program

- Initiated in 03; valuable & steady source of income
- Raised approximately \$103K past year
- Thanks to those who renewed their pledges & to those newly established Pillars
- Thanks to Der Aram and Yeretzgeen for hosting a Pillars reception in their home
- Many thanks to the committee
- Encourage all, to join in and enlist others

# REGIONAL CONFERENCES

- Devoted a great deal of effort to organ. this program for pastors, BOT and Delegates
- Conferences were held in New England, Mid-Atlantic & Mid-West
- Maj. attendees gave a Good to an Excellent rating
- Thanks to all participants
- Recommend. tabulated & distrib.
- Heartfelt thanks to host parishes (Worcester, Detroit and NJ)
- Program continues; w/ ultimate goal of strengthening the spiritual & cultural life of church to better serve the community



# YOUTH - LINKED IN; WEEKEND WORKSHOP

- 2<sup>nd</sup> annual conference, in Sept. at Coptic Retreat MA
- 45 students and young professionals (ages of 18-35)
- The general theme: "Know Your Church"
- Lectures:  
leadership, simil. & diff.  
of our church,  
Christian values  
at home, Aram  
Vehapar's message  
& missionary work
- Sunday Divine Liturgy



# YEAR OF THE ARMENIAN WOMAN

- Aram Vehapar's Pontifical message:
  - Highlights the biblical, historical and contemporary reflections of the role of women and men in society
  - Women and men are equal in the eyes of God, and partners in caring for the created world
  - "New Eve,"—Mary the Mother of God—role in the history of salvation
  - Many women contrib. to the survival of the nation
  - Achievements of women in important events of UN and the Ecumenical Movement
  - Reconsider the nature of this partnership in the Armenian community, in view of the moral values

# PRELACY DEPARTMENTS

## A. AREC

- Develop, promote and implement, provide support for various Christian educational programs
- Revised and implem. resol. from the 2009 NRA and reg. conf.

### 1. Youth Program / Datev

- 23rd annual Arm. Christian Studies
- 51 students (ages 13-18 yr) from 10 parishes
- Program: worship services, interactive classes, panel discussions & Bible studies, and recreational activities
- Appreciation: parishes that subsidize the exp., Pashalian Fund and donations from org.s and individuals
- 24th annual Program, sch. June 25-July 4, 2010 (det. on Web)



# PRELACY DEPARTMENTS / AREC

## 2. Youth Conference in LA

## 3. Sunday Schools / Local Seminars

- Provides opportunity and encourages all parishes to host local seminars for teachers and staff (by invitation)

## 4. National Conference for Sunday School teachers

- Conf. in Fall of 2010
- Theme: Feasts (basic essentials of Armenian Christianity)
- Opportunity for teachers to gain a broad knowledge of our faith, basic skills to teach children, a forum to network

## 5. PROGRAMS FOR THE COMMUNITY

- Regional conferences
- Adults educational programs
- Lenten Programs
- Bible study: Women in the Bible
- Pilgrimage to Lebanon and Syria in Aug. 2010 (det. on Web)

# PRELACY DEPARTMENTS

## B. ANEC

- Co-sponsored by the Prelacy and ARS Eastern US
- Inactive since June 2006
- Approved the revised ANEC By-Laws & guideline
- ARS & Prelacy appointed a 6 member joint committee
- 1st meeting of the committee was held in March
- Contacted all parishes to announce the reactivation

### 1) An Online Course in Modern Western Armenian

- Course based on Thomas Samuelian's popular textbook

**C. Bookstore:** managed on a part-time basis; sales all time low

**D. Hovsep and Suzanne Hagopian Library:** includes more than 13,000 volumes; plans are to reduce the collection

# PRELACY DEPARTMENTS

## E. Other Organizations and Committees

### 1. PLG

- Sponsored receptions and extended support for AREC
- Mother's Day Luncheon was held in NY
- Participate in humanitarian projects and campaigns for Prelacy
- Thank them for their dedication

### 2. NALG

- Annual raffle fundraiser proceeds allocated to Datev
- Currently updating NALG By-Laws
- Planning to honor Yeretzhin Khoyan
- Participated in 3 regional seminar

### 3. Musical Armenia

- 27th annual concert in March NYC
- Reception for the artists and benefactors took place @ Prelacy

# ARMENIA PROJECTS

## A. Yerevan Office (St. Nerses the Great Charitable and Social Org.)

- Manage our programs, for the past 17 yr
- 4 member office staff
- Volunteer to provide counseling or practical assistance to orphans or their family members
- Assisted 30 orphans for their free admission to diff. Univ.
- Total administrative cost \$36.5K

## B. Orphan's Program

- Established in 93  
continues to be successful
- To date, distributed \$2 Mil of assistance to more than 1500 orphans under the age of 18
- Last year distrib. \$105K to 600 orphans / monthly stipends
- Currently 560 children are enrolled, thanks to the generosity of 367 individual sponsors



# **ARMENIA PROJECTS**

**Also support the foll. programs, thru individual donors and /or organizations:**

**C. Noubarashen Orphanage**

**D. Happy Family program**

**E. Datev Music School of Nor Malatya**

**F. Scholarships to university students**

**G. Armenia Fund USA**

**H. United Armenian Fund**

# OTHER PROJECTS

## A. NOR GILIGIA Project

- Reconstruction of a border village in Artsakh: building 60 new homes, schools, medical center, church and meeting hall
- Approved by the World General Assembly of our Catholicosate in Dec. 08
- Gov. of Artsakh will assume all of the infrastructure improv.: new roads, old roads, and basic utilities
- Our Prelacy's responsibility: constr. 4 homes, total \$140K payable in 3 annual installments
- Mass mailing appeal and 2 plate offerings, raised \$25K

# OTHER PROJECTS

## B. HAITI EARTHQUAKE

- Plate collection from parishes and individual donations totaling \$11.8K, sent to the American Red Cross

## C. PRELACY BUILDING RENOVATION PROJECT

- Building is over 100 yr old
- Currently needs major repair
- EC will make s separate presentation during this NRA, to determine course of action

# COMMUNICATIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

## A. PRELACY WEBSITE ENHANCEMENT

- Redesigned; now in the process of updating and adding more information
- Hope to utilize audio and video to a greater extent: to share lectures, sermons and meditations

## B. PUBLICITY

- Press releases via Armenian newspapers, radio and TV outlets and Groong network
- Releases and photographs via web site
- Events are listed in the calendar of events & other internet sites

# COMMUNICATIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

## C. OUTREACH

- Not cost effective in today's modern form of communications
- 2 issues is planned for 2010-11

## D. CROSSROADS

- Very successful weekly electronic newsletter
- Fastest, the most efficient, and cost-effective
- Number of recipients continues to increase
- Expand this list, w/ help of all of our parishes

# COMMUNICATIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

## E. OTHER PUBLICATIONS

1. **Diary:** published since 1974 and is very popular
  2. **The Armenian Prelacy: The Fabric of Armenian Christian Life;** updated & redesigned brochure
  3. **Year of the Armenian Woman: Message of H.H. Aram I;** printed & distributed booklet in Armenian and English
- **A Journey of Faith: A Comprehensive History of the Prelacy;** undertaken as a 50th anniv. project, prepared for printing

# **MEDALS, HONORS AND CERTIF. OF MERIT**

Congratulate to all recipients

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

We express our thanks to all: donors, dedicated members of various Prelacy committees for special events, members of the Prelacy Ladies Guild, AREC & ANEC committees, and Trustees of the Endowment Fund, our church boards and local church communities, NRA Delegates, Prelacy Staff, special thanks to Iris Papazian and above all to our Faithful parishioners

## **IN MEMORIAM**

We pray God to rest the souls of the departed supporters and members of our greater family

# CONCLUSION

- Many challenges and opportunities
- Key to our success: commit ourselves to serve God's Mission through our faith and service, and re-assert our spiritual beliefs and rich culture into modern techniques and practices
- As leaders and representatives of our community:
  1. Train and recruit leaders
  2. Hold ourselves to a higher standard
  3. Hold our students to a higher standard and keep them close to the church
  4. Set a good example through our collective leadership, faith and understanding
- Work together in the spirit of our Lord and enrich each other's efforts

Երկնաւոր Թագաւոր,  
անսասան պահէ քու եկեղեցիդ  
եւ խաղաղութեան մէջ պահէ  
քու անունիդ երկրպագուները:

Heavenly King,  
preserve your Church unshaken  
and keep in peace  
those who worship your name.



**With each other...  
for each other...**

Oshagan Srpazan

# Respectfully submitted

Hagop Khatchadourian, Chairman

Zohrab Tazian, Vice Chairman

Karen Jehanian, Secretary

Raffi Ourlian, Treasurer

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