

# ՇՈՂԱԿԱԹ

SHOGHAGAT

ՊԱՐԲԵՐԱԳԻՐ ՍՈՒՐԲ ՍԱՐԳԻՍ ՆԱՅՅ. ԱՌԱՔԵԼԱԿԱՆ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻՈՅ  
PERIODICAL PUBLICATION OF SAINT SARKIS ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

## SPECIAL ISSUE



Dedicated to the Memory of  
**BEDROS GIVELEKIAN**

Chairman Emeritus

September 21, 1933 - May 13, 2013

# SHOGHAGAT

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## Letter from the Editor

Sireli Paregamner,

This special issue of Shoghagat celebrates the vibrant life and selfless contributions of Mr. Bedros Givelekian to both church and country. Mr. Givelekian - Bedros to his friends - led the Board of Trustees of Saint Sarkis Church as Chairman for twenty years. While on the Board, Bedros used his talents in accounting and persuasion to secure the financial footing of Saint Sarkis Church during the rebuilding of the sanctuary after a fire devastated the original Church building in 1985.

I regret that I did not know Mr. Givelekian well, though his stellar reputation certainly made me feel like I did. I met him at the Church's 50th Anniversary celebration last November for the first time. A Godfather to our Church, a benefactor, advisor, teacher, businessman, confidant, counselor, husband, brother, father, grandfather, uncle and friend, Bedros played so many roles so well. After editing this issue, I wish I knew him on a more personal level much better.

The pages of Shoghagat capture the eulogies read during Bedros' memorial -- each tells a story, a chapter in the life of this great man who contributed so much to build St. Sarkis Church for all of us to cherish. May his family and friends find solace in knowing that Bedros inspired so many during his lifetime and continues to inspire those with his memory.

Please keep the soul of Bedros Givelekian in your prayers. I know I will..

Victoria Mesropian Yekhpairian, Editor



### Front cover:

Celebrating the life of  
Mr. Bedros Givelekian with  
images from 1962 through 2012.



### Back cover:

The rebirth of  
Saint Sarkis Church,  
1990.

# Message from His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the See of Cilicia



**ԿԱԹՈՂՎԱԿՈՍԱՐԱՆՆ  
ՄԵԾԻ ՏԱՆՆ ԿԻԼԻԿԻՈՅ**  
ԱՆՔԻԼՈՍԱՍ - ԼԻԲԱՆԱՍ

Թիւ

Անթիլիաս, 13 Մայիս 2013

**Ազնուափայլ  
Տիկին Սոնիա Ճիւելէֆեան  
Նիւ Եորք**

Սիրելի՛ Տիկին Ճիւելէֆեան,

Հիւսիսային Ամերիկայի Արեւելեան թմի Առաջնորդ Գերշ. Տ. Օշական Արք. Չոլոյեանէն խոր ցաւով իմացանք Ձեր սիրելի ամուսնոյն, Արեւելեան թմի ազգային դէմքերէն, Մեծի Տանն Կիլիկիոյ Կաթողիկոսութեան Ասպետի կարգի շքանշանակիր Պետրոս Ճիւելէֆեանի մահուան գոյժը:

Այս տխուր առիթով Մեր խորազգած ցաւակցութիւնները կը յայտնենք Առաջնորդ Սրբազանին, եւ Ձեզի, Ձեր զաւակներուն, թոռներուն ու Ճիւելէֆեան գերդաստանի համայն անդամներուն:

Գիտենք թէ որքա՛ն խոր վշտով համակուած են Ձեր եւ Ձեր հարազատներուն հոգիները սա պահուն, երբ Ձեզմէ յաւէտ կը բաժնուի անձ մը, որ իր կեանքով ու գործով եղաւ սիրելի ո՛չ միայն իր ընտանիքին, այլ՝ բոլոր անոնց, որոնք մօտէն ճանչցան զինք: Պետրոս Ճիւելէֆեան, իր ողջ կեանքի ընթացքին՝ Ռումանիայէն մինչեւ Լիբանան ու Միացեալ Նահանգներ միշտ մնաց սերտօրէն կապուած մեր ժողովուրդին ու եկեղեցւոյ, որոնց հանդէպ իր սէրը երբեք նահանջ չ'արձանագրեց:

Արդարեւ, Արեւելեան թմին տուած Մեր հովուապետական այցելութեան ընթացքին աւելի մօտէն ճանչցանք զինք, որպէս ազգին ու եկեղեցւոյ նկատմամբ խոր յարգանք ու նախանձախնդրութիւն ունեցող անձնաւորութիւն: Ան յատուկ սէր ու կապուածութիւն ունէր հանդէպ Մեծի Տանն Կիլիկիոյ Կաթողիկոսութեան, որուն առաքելութեան հաւատաց միշտ: Ս. Սարգիս եկեղեցին մնայուն ու կարեւոր տեղ գրաւեց իր ազգային ծառայութեան մէջ, որուն շինարարութեան բերաւ իր կարեւոր նպաստը, վարչական իր գործունէութեան կողքին:

Կ'աղօթենք առ Ամենաբարին Աստուած, որ երկնային երանական խաղաղութեան մէջ ընդունի Պետրոս Ճիւելէֆեանի հոգին եւ Սուրբ Հոգւոյն միջոցաւ մխիթարէ Ձեզ, Ձեր զաւակները եւ Ձեր սգակիր հարազատները: Թող Աստուած վառ պահէ իր բարի յիշատակը Ձեր բոլորի հոգիներուն ու սրտերուն մէջ:

Հայրապետական օրհնութեամբ եւ սիրոյ ջերմ ողջունիւ,

Առօրարար՝  
*(Handwritten signature)*

**ԱՐԱՄ Ա. ԿԱԹՈՂՎԱԿՈՍ  
ՄԵԾԻ ՏԱՆՆ ԿԻԼԻԿԻՈՅ**

# Message from His Eminence Archbishop Oshagan Cholyan, Prelate



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Յունիս 21, 2013  
Թիւ 237/13

Արժանապատիւ

Տ. Նարեկ Քհնյ. Թրթռեան, Հոգեւոր Հովիւ

եւ Պատուարժան Հոգաբարձութիւն Սուրբ Սարգիս Եկեղեցւոյ

Տակլըսթըն, Նիւ Եորք.

Քառասուն օրեր անցեր են այն տխուր պահէն, երբ Պետրոս Ճիվէլէֆեան հեռացաւ այս աշխարհէն ու իր սիրելիներէն, գտնելով իր հանգիստը մեր Տիրոջ հաւատացեալներու հոյիին մէջ: Իր մահը սուգի մատնեց իր հարազատները, ինչպէս նաեւ Սուրբ Սարգիս Եկեղեցւոյ համայնքը, որուն ծաղկման ու յառաջդիմութեան համար երկա՛ր տարիներ սիրով ու նուիրուածութեամբ աշխատեցաւ:

Ես չհանչեցայ Պետրոսը այնպէս ինչպէս բարեկամներ եւ ընկերներ զիրար կը ցանչնան: Ես հանչեցայ զինք իր ծառայութեան եւ կատարած եկեղեցաշէն աշխատանքին ընդմէջէն: Ան իր անմիջական հոգատարութեան տակ առաւ Սուրբ Սարգիս Եկեղեցին իր հաւատացեալներով, նախ շինելով Սուրբ Սարգիս Եկեղեցին որպէս կառոյց, եւ ապա ի մի մէկտեղելով հաւատացեալները՝ հոգեւոր եկեղեցիին հիմերը աւելի ամրապնդելով: Եւ ասիկա եղաւ իր առաքելութիւնը, նուիրումը եւ այս ցամաքով՝ իր ամբողջական գոհունակութիւնն ու ուրախութիւնը:

Պետրոսը չբաւականացաւ մի միայն տեղական բնոյթ կրող ծառայութեամբ: Նուիրումով ծառայեց նաեւ Ազգային Առաջնորդարանիս Ազգային Վարչութեան մէջ, որպէս Վարչութեան գանձապահը, տարիներու իր փորձառութիւնն ու գիտութիւնը ի սպաս դնելով Առաջնորդարանիս վարչական գործերու սահուն ընթացքին: Եւ իր բոլորանուէր աշխատանքին որպէս երախտիք, արժանացաւ Մեծի Տանն Կիլիկիոյ Կաթողիկոսութեան Կիլիկեան Ասպետի շքանշանին եւ Ազգային Առաջնորդարանիս Կիլիկեան Արծիւ շքանշանին: Վարձատրութիւններ՝ որոնք միայն ծառայութեամբ կը շահուին:

Իր մէջ յատուկ գնահատանքի արժանի կը գտնեմ այն իմաստութիւնը, որ իր պաշտօնի կատարումի ընթացքին, գիտցաւ պատրաստել իր յաջորդները՝ հաւատարմութեան եւ աշխոյժ աշխատանքի եռանդով: Իր կատարած ցուցմունքներով եւ թելադրութիւններով օգտակար հանդիսացաւ իր յաջորդներուն, որոնք այսօր երախտագիտութեամբ եւ գոհունակութեան իրենց յարգանքը կը յայտնեն անոր յիշատակին եւ շնորհապարտ կը մնան Պետրոսին տուած օրինակին:

Այսօր, առիթն է կրկին մեր երախտագիտութիւնը յայտնելու իմաստուն եւ գործունեայ ղեկավարի մը կերպարին: Կը յայտնենք նաեւ մեր ցաւակցութիւնները իր հարազատներուն եւ կը մխիթարենք զիրենք այն հասկացողութեամբ, որ նման ամուսին մը, հայր մը եւ նուիրեալ հայորդի մը ունեցած են:

Յիշատակն արդարոյն օրհնութեամբ եղիցի:

Աղօթարար՝

ՕՇԱԿԱՆ ԱՐՔԵՊԻՍԿՈՊՈՍ

Առաջնորդ Ամերիկայի Արեւելեան Թեմին

# Message from His Grace Bishop Anoushavan Tanielian, Vicar General



## ԱՉԳԱՅԻՆ ԱՌԱՋ ՆՈՐԴԱՐԱՆ

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### ՊԵՏՐՈՍ ԾԻՎԷԼԷԿԵԱՆԻ

Անթառամ Յիշատակին Խօսուած Դամբանական

Սիրելի սգակիր հաւատացեալներ, շաւաբուած ենք միասնաբար աղօթելու մեզմէ բաժնուած հաւատաւոր անդամի մը հոգւոյն համար, զօրակցելու անոր ընտանեկան պարագաներուն՝ իրենց սիրեցեալ հարազատի կորուստին համար, բայց մանաւանդ փառք տալու Ամենակալ Աստուծոյ որ, արժէքներէ հետզհետէ դատարկուող մեր ընկերութեան մէջ, դեռ եւս շօշափելի կերպով զգալի կը դարձնէ իր ներկայութիւնը անձնուէր հաւատացեալներով, ինչպիսին էր հանգուցեալը Պետրոս Ծիվելէկեանը, որ աստուածապարգեւ իր կեանքի օրերը ապրեցաւ եւ գործածեց ի սպաս ոչ միայն իր անձին, ընտանիքին ու անմիջական հարազատներուն, այլ նաեւ համայնքին, ազգին եւ ինչու չէ առհասարակ մարդկութեան:

իրապաշտ մէջբերում մը գտնել քան Տէրունական Խօսքը իր Աշակերտին ուղղուած, թէ՛ «Ի՞նչն էս վէ՛մը, եւ այդ վէ՛մին վրայ պիտի շինեմ եկեղեցիս» (Մտ 16.18):

ու երկիրներուն պարտապան շմնայ, այլ իր պարտքը վերածելով գիտակից պարտականութեան, դարձաւ դրական եւ շինիչ ոյժ մը որ գիտէ աշխատիլ, օգնել եւ բարձրանալով իր հետ բարձրացնել նաեւ ուրիշներ:



In 2002, Chairman of the 40th Anniversary of the inception of St. Sarkis Church.

Սուրբ Գրային հասկացողութեամբ անունը մարդն իսկ կը բնորոշէ, ինչպէս Հին Կտակարանին նոյնպէս Նոր Կտակարանին մէջ: Երբ մեր Տէրը Յիսուս Քրիստոս իր աշակերտը՝ Յովնանի որդի Սիմոնը վերակոչեց Պետրոս (Մր 3.16), որ կը նշանակէ վէ՛մ, ժայռ, անոր առաքելութիւնը բնութագրեց իր նորահաստատ եկեղեցւոյ մէջ: Նոյն հասկացողութեամբ, մեր նախահայրերը ոչ թէ պատահականութեան որպէս արդիւնք իրենց զաւակներուն անուն կուտային, այլ յստակ գիտակցութեամբ եւ հաւատքով, թէ տուեալ սուրբին կամ հերոսին շնորհքով, առաքիլութեամբ եւ արիւթեամբ օծուն կեանք մը պիտի վարէ ենթական:

Այսինքն՝ այն խոստովանութիւնը որ Պետրոս Առաքեալ ըրած էր, թէ՛ Քրիստոս կենդանի Աստուծոյ որդին է: Հանգուցեալին կեանքը երբ վերլուծենք իր բոլոր երեսներով, պիտի տեսնենք որ արդարեւ անիկա ժայռի նման տոկուն կուտան մը հանդիսացած էր իր ընտանիքին ու համայնքին Ռումանիայէն մինչեւ Պէյրութ եւ Ամերիկա: Հակառակ իրեն ընձեռուած անտանելի դժուարութեանց, ճակատագրակից բազմահազար հայորդիներու նման կեանքի անողոք քուրային մէջ շիկացած, ան զօրացած ինքնութեամբ եւ նկարագրով դուրս եկաւ անկէ, հասնելով ընտանիքին թէ բարեկամին, ծանօթին ու անծանօթին: Ոչինչ խնայեց որպէսզի զինք հիւրընկալող երկրորդ հայրենիքին

Պետրոս, հայու արդար քրտինքով կրցաւ պատուաբեր դիրքի հասցընել իր ընտանիքը՝ ըլլալով օրինակելի ամուսին, հայր, եղբայր, հօրեղբայր, մեծ հայր: Ան եղաւ վստահելի կուտան մը, անխտիր իր ներդրումը բերելով իր ժողովուրդի զաւակներուն: Քրիստոնեայ հայու իր սերմերը ծառայութեան ընդմէջէն անսակարկ ցանց՝ որպէս Ս. Սարգիսի ատենապետ, Ազգային Առաջնորդարանի Վարչութեան անդամ, Վարդանանց Ասպետներու սպարապետ, Վուստայտի Հայ Կեդրոնի յանձնառու անդամ, եւս առաւել՝ Հայրապետական ընդունելութեան, ինչպէս նաեւ բազմաթիւ ձեռնարկներու կազմակերպիչ յանձնախումբի ատենապետ: Անիկա իր ասպարէզին մէջ եղաւ պարկեշտ, բայց մանաւանդ՝ իր յաճախորդներուն տազնապներուն լուծումներ գտնող վստահելի բարեկամ մը:

Այս բոլորէն վեր՝ Պետրոս կը մնայ իր անուան հարազատ եւ հաւատարիմ վկայութիւնը, յատկապէս Ս. Սարգիս եկեղեցւոյ կեանքէն ներս: Ան ոչ միայն օգտակար եղաւ եւ իր տաղանդները շահարկեց ի նպաստ նորակառոյց եկեղեցւոյ շինութեան, այլ անսակարկ կերպով իր էութիւնը միախառնեց անոր հիմերուն, պայծառակերպման ու վերելքին: Այո, ան ինքզինք նոյնացուց եկեղեցւոյ հետ երբ, իր ամբողջ ընտանիքին ու ասպարէզին ճակատագիրը նժարի մէջ դնելով, ստորագրեց այս փոքրիկ համայնքին վրայ Թամոնկեան սուրի նման ճօճուող հաւոր ծանրութեամբ պարտամուրհակը, մինչ նիւթական վիճակով իրմէ շատ աւելի

պատասխանատու անձեր վերապահ մնացին նման յանձնառութիւն կատարելէ: Այո՛, իր սիրտը եկեղեցւոյ սրտին հետ տրոփեց ուրախութեան, բայց մանաւանդ տազնապի պահերուն, երբ ամսավերջին՝ պարտամուրհակի վճարումի հրէշլային օրերը կը մօտենային, մարդկայնօրէն յուսահատական կացութեան մէջ, մետասաներորդ ժամուն Աստուծոյ օգնութեամբ իսկական հրաշք մը կը կատարուէր երբեմն ծանօթ եւ երբեմն անծանօթ ազնուահոգի անհատներու կողմէ: Այո՛, իր ամբողջական նուիրումով գուրգուրաց իր հոգեզաւակը հանդիսացող Աստուծոյ այս Տան, երբ ամէն առտու իր գրասենեակի ճամբուն վրայ հանդիպելով, անոր վեհ սլացքով թուիչք առաւ իր աշխատանքը, իսկ օրուան մնացեալ ժամերուն իր աշխատանքներուն մնայուն մաս դարձուց անոր առօրեայ մտահոգութիւնները: Այո, հայրական վերաբերմունքով գիտցաւ գնահատել բոլորին ներդրումը եկեղեցւոյ վերելքին մէջ, եւ իր մշտական ներկայութեամբ օրինակ եղաւ եկեղեցւոյ եւ գաղութային կեանքին մէջ մասնակցելով օրհնուելու մշտական բարիքին:

Եւ վերջապէս, որպէս իրաւ վեմ՝ այս եկեղեցւոյ մշտական բարգաւաճման եւ յառաջդիմութեան, ան գիտցաւ պատրաստել ապագայ գործակիցներ, որպէսզի Հայ եկեղեցւոյ ու ազգին պարծանք դարձած այս հոյակերտ կառոյցը հատաքի, մշակութային, ընկերային կեանքի մէջ շարունակէ իր առա-

քելութիւնը առաւել թափով եւ նոր տեսլականներով:

Սիրելի Պետրոս,  
Վստահ եմ ինչպէս իմ, նաեւ բոլոր անոնք որոնք իրենց կեանքը բաժնեցին հետդ, ճանչցան քեզ, ու գործեցին միասնաբար, ամէնքին կեանքին մէջ իւրայատուկ տեղ մը ունեցար: Չեմ կրնար ըսել որ կեանքիդ բոլոր երեսներուն տեղեակ եմ, սակայն կրնամ անվերապահ ըսել թէ ազնիւ ու հաւատացեալ ծնողքէդ ժառանգած բարեմասնութիւններդ բազմապատկելով, դարձար ժպտուն, դրական մտածող ու գործող, եւ բարիք գործելու միշտ պատրաստ անձնաւորութիւն մը: Ինչպէս մեծանուն բանաստեղծ, փիլիսոփայ եւ արուեստագէտ Ճարան Նալիլ Ճարան ըսած է, բարիք ընելը քու բնութեանդ նոյնքան հարազատ էր ինչպէս ծառին՝ պտուղ տալը, ծաղիկին՝ բոյր սփռելը, զեփիւռին՝ քաղցրութեամբ դէմքեր շոյելն ու զովացնելը: Պարգութեանդ մէջ հմայք մը ունէիր եւ անխտիր յարգանք պարտադրած՝ շրջապատիդ: Զարմանալի եւ նախանձելի ըլլալու աստիճան անձ մըն էիր որ «ոչ» ըսել չէր գիտեր: Իսկ աւելին՝ անկեղծութեանդ եւ նուիրումիդ առհաւատչեան եղող խօսքովդ՝ «Մանչս, բան մը կ'ընենք», խօսք մը որուն մէջ կար ջերմութիւն, ապահովութիւն, եւ յոյս, դրական ոգիով կը պարուրէիր եւ կը փարատէիր դիմացինիդ տագնապները:

Պաշտօններ վարելով չդարձար Աթոռի գերի, այլ գայն վերածեցիր

ազգաշէն միջոցի՝ քու անշահախնդիր ծառայասիրութեանդ ոգիով կենսաւորելով: Համակ սէր, ժպիտ եւ նուիրում էիր եւ միշտ պատրաստ՝ փարատելու մարդոց տագնապներն ու մտահոգութիւնները, եւ մինչեւ այս կեանքէդ բաժնուիլը մնացիր միշտ նոյնը՝ նման մոմի պատրոյզին, որ մինչեւ վերջին ակնթարթը լոյս կու տայ: Այո, մինչեւ վերջին ակնթարթը, որովհետեւ Մայրերու տօնին յարգելով եւ ուրախացնելով կողակիցդ՝ Սօնիան, որ նեցուկ եղաւ քեզի կեանքիդ բոլոր օրերուն, նաեւ թոռնիկիդ՝ Թովմասին եւս տարեդարձը տօնելէ ետք, երբ յաջորդ օրն իսկ կը պատրաստուէիր նուիրական նպատակի մը համար հեռախօսային ժողով ունենալ եւ ապա Ֆլօրիտա մեկնիլ, անակնկալ եւ անդարձ կերպով մեկնեցար խաղաղ, պարտականութիւններդ լիուլի կատարած, եւ պատրաստ՝ քրանաւէտ ձայնը լսելու, «Բարի եւ հաւատարիմ ծառայ, մտի՛ր Տիրոջդ ուրախութենէն ներս»:

Օրինակդ վարակիչ դառնայ,  
Յիշատակդ անթառամ մնայ,  
Եւ Աստուծոյ Սուրբ Սեղանին վրայ  
Բարեսէր կեանքդ խունկի նման  
ընդունելի ըլլայ:

Անուշաւան Եպիսկոպոս  
Մ. Սարգիս Եկեղեցի,  
Տակլաթըն, Նիւ Եորք



The 1997 Board of Trustees of Saint Sarkis Church.

## Message from Der Nareg Terterian, Pastor

*Միրելի սգակիր քույրեր եւ եղբայրներ,*

Հաւաքուած ենք այստեղ մեր յարգանքի տուրքը մատուցելու մեր շատ Սիրելի Պետրոս Ճիվէլէկեանի յիշատակին: Հաւաքուած ենք երբ մեր բոլորին սրտերուն վրայ կը ճնշէ ահաւոր ցաւ, որովհետեւ կորսնցուցած ենք թանկագին անձ մը: Բառերը անզօր են ամոքելու մեր վիշտը. եւ երբ մարդկային բառերը կը դառնան անիմաստ, մենք մեր հայացքը կ'ուղղենք մեր հաւատքի աղբիւրին՝ մեր Տիրոջ Յիսուս Քրիստոսի խօսքերուն, որպէսզի անոնցմով մխիթարանք գտնենք մեր ցաւերուն: Մեր Տէրը կ'ըսէ. «Ան որ ինձի կը հաւատայ թէպէտեւ մեռնի՝ պիտի ապրի»: Այլ խօսքով՝ ապրելու, եւ յաւիտենապէս ապրելու պայմանը հաւատքն է:

Այսօր մենք հաւաքուած ենք եւ բոլորս վկաներ ենք Պետրոս Ճիվէլէկեանի հաւատքին մասին: Ան հաւատաց իր հասկըցած ձեւով, եւ իր հաւատքը ապրեցաւ իր ծառայութեան ընդմէջէն: Ծառայութիւն մը որ երկարեցաւ իր կեանքի ամբողջ ընթացքին եւ բիւրեղացաւ այստեղ՝ Ս. Սարգիս Եկեղեցոյ մէջ: Այդ հաւատքին եւ ծառայութեան արդիւնքն է այս սուրբ կառոյցը ու սերունդներ պիտի հաւաքուին ապրելու համար իրենց հաւատքը:

Ես պիտի ուզեմ իմ անձնական վկայութիւնս տալ իմ ունեցած փորձառութեանս մասին Պետրոս Ճիվէլէկեանին հետ:

I came to know Mr. Bedros Givelekian eleven years ago when I was assigned to serve St. Sarkis Church as a deacon. Bedros was the Chairman of the Board of Trustees. He was a man who had the privilege to interact with three Catholicoses. That could be pretty intimidating for a deacon who just graduated from the seminary. But when I met Bedros, he and Fr. Anoushavan (the pastor at that time) welcomed me and we quickly established a relationship based on mutual respect.

Upon my priestly ordination, when my wife and I came back to New York, Fr. Anoushavan picked us at JFK Airport and as we were driving on the Cross Island Parkway, I asked “Hayr Sourp where are we going to stay?” He said “Bedros wants you to stay at his home until you find somewhere to stay”. Sure enough,

we stayed with Bedros and enjoyed the hospitality of the Givelekian family for a week. For me that week was like taking a crash course in the history of St. Sarkis Church, as Bedros taught me about the church he loved.

Years later I found myself serving with Bedros on the Executive Council of the Armenian Prelacy. I witnessed Bedros in action, ensuring the Prelacy continued to provide its services to our communities. It is ironic that on this very day in 2009, Bedros and I drove to Boston to attend the National Representatives Assembly. We spent three quality hours discussing issues related to the Prelacy and St. Sarkis Church.

My last encounter with Bedros was a few weeks ago, when he and Sonia were here to offer requiem service for the souls of their departed family members. At the end of church services, I sat down with Bedros during fellowship hour and we had a conversation about all the good things happening at St. Sarkis Church. I told him about the various new committees that were forming to better serve the needs of the church. For me this was the final lesson from Bedros, he said “that’s a great idea because we all need to continue to work for this church”.



*“ ‘Hayr Sourp where are we going to stay’? He said ‘Bedros wants you to stay at his home until you find somewhere to stay’ ”.*

*«Պէտք է բոլորս աշխատինք այս Եկեղեցիին համար»: Այս պատգամը Պետրոս Ճիվէլէկեանին: Բոլորս շարունակենք աշխատիլ այս Եկեղեցոյ համար, Հայ Եկեղեցոյ համար:*

*Իմ մտածումներս պիտի ուզեմ եզրակացնել մեծ բանաստեղծ Վահան Թէքէեանին խօսքերով.-*

*«Եկեղեցին Հայկական բարձր բերդն է հաւատքին  
Իմ պապերուս, որ հողէն զայն քար առ քար հանեցին  
Եւ երկինքէն իջուցին զայն ցօղ առ ցօղ, ամպ առ ամպ,  
Ու թաղուեցան անոր մէջ հանդարտութեամբ,  
հեզութեամբ...»*

*Թող Աստուած Օրհնէ յիշատակը Պետրոս Ճիվէլէկեանին:*

## Message from Dr. Aram Cazazian, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of St. Sarkis Church and personally, on behalf of my wife Rima and myself, I extend to all of you our deepest and sincere condolences for the loss of your most precious life partner, father and grandfather.

It is with great sadness that I stand in front of you today to honor the life of my friend, the honorary Chairman of the Board of Trustees of St. Sarkis Church. Bedros' life was taken away from us and it is hard to understand why tragic things like this happen to such good people. However, this is a question without an answer and we should not dwell on the loss of our dear friend, husband, and father but celebrate his life and remember all of the remarkable things Bedros accomplished and how wonderful his life was.

I met Bedros in 1973 when I needed an accountant for my newly opened dental office. From that time forward, we became good friends and shared many things in common. He was knowledgeable, hardworking and very involved in our Armenian community. Many factors led our friendship to a higher level, particularly when he asked me to join the membership and then be part of the Board of Trustees (BOT) of St. Sarkis Church.

Bedros had lived an amazing life, was incredibly responsible, intelligent and caring. I knew that I could trust him with anything and I respected him...we all respected him. After joining the BOT together, we worked hard on all the aspects of life at St Sarkis Church.

For us Bedros was the "ROCK". We would always go to him to solve church problems and if he was not able to do so, he would find someone who could.

I had the honor and privilege of working with him and co-chairing major activities with him for the Armenian Prelacy, Knights of Vartan, Armenian Community, and especially St. Sarkis Church. He was a leader, good teacher, resourceful person, a good Armenian, with so many good ideas. He had the ability to challenge you to bring the best out of you. I cannot count the days and number of hours I spent with him, discussing and planning different types of activities in which we were involved. After I become the Chairman of the Board in 2006 and he was part of the Executive Council of the Prelacy, our cooperation reached a different level.

Bedros dedicated a big part of his life to the building of the new St. Sarkis Church. He was relentless in his pursuit for funds to construct and finish the church and we all were behind him. One of the biggest successes for St. Sarkis was when he chose the stores on Union Turnpike as part of distribution of assets from the estate of the late Mrs. Suzanne Hagopian. The church was at a crossroads but from that moment on, I knew the church would survive and flourish.

God Bless Bedros Givelekian for what he did for St. Sarkis Church. Bedros was blessed with a fantastic family, especially his wife Sonia, who was very understanding, caring, highly supportive, and lately, the power behind him. God Bless you Sonia for what you did for Bedros and your family.

Dear Bedros, rest in peace wherever you are now. The Board of Trustees and I will always remember what you did for St. Sarkis Church and we will try to walk on a path that is consistent with what is safe and good for our church.

*God Bless Your Soul*



The 1991 Board of Trustees of Saint Sarkis Church in the new church sanctuary.



## Eulogy from Mr. Kegham Apkar Tcholakian, Knights of Vartan

Our dear brother Bedros Givelekian passed away peacefully and went to his Heavenly Home to be with his Lord and near his dear ones in Heaven.

His passing away is a reminder to us all of the Natural Seasons: Birth, Life, and Death. The profound truth that even the grandest of souls will finally be "Called to Join the Creator". Our dear brother, Nakhgin Avak Treasurer N.S. Bedros Givelekian will be missed, but his legacy and spirit will be forever ingrained in our souls, in our hearts and mind. Although he has departed from us, we shall always feel the presence of his spirit among us.

Today once again, we find ourselves before the sad reality of death. We have traveled from far and near to come to pay our final respects to the unfading memory of our dearly departed loved one Bedros Givelekian.

A wonderful and kind person, who with dedication and tireless efforts, had devoted himself to a life of service for the betterment of his family, work, the Armenian Nation, her churches, schools, culture and Armenian Community. Whatever he did, it was done with zeal and commitment. In our lifetime, our paths cross many different kinds of people who, for one reason or another, make an impact on us. Bedros was one of those remarkable people. I know of no individual who had the same high regard and total dedication that he had toward our Church. He set a noble example worthy of great praise and emulation by all those who would travel in his footsteps. Bedros is a true son of the Armenian Nation.

I am honored to have called him my friend. I will cherish his memory for as long as I live.

We will all miss him, yet we feel fortunate to have had his friendship and presence for many years. Those who knew Bedros can give testament to the lessons that he imparted: "happiness is not so much having as it is giving", "we make a living by what we get but we make a life by what we give". He was always there to help others when asked. "No" was not a word in his vocabulary. Every time I needed Bedros, whether I was happy or sad, he made me feel good about myself. Although a smile has a curve, Bedros's smile straightened everything and problems were solved to the satisfaction of all involved.

*"[Bedros would say]...happiness is not so much having as it is giving... we make a living by what we get but we make a life by what we give".*

Like a "Bright Star" his light has gone out but his wonderful free spirit will continue to shine in our memory for many years to come. May his soul forever rest in peace. May God deem him worthy of his crown of glory and grant eternal rest to the soul of his faithful servant Bedros Givelekian. May his soul be illuminated in heavenly lights and may the Holy Spirit comfort his bereaved family members and friends, near and far, and fill their hearts with His merciful love and comfort.

Goodbye dear Asbed Brother Bedros Givelekian,  
Until we meet again, God bless us all.

*Kegham Apkar Tcholakian  
Past Grand Commander,  
Knights of Vartan Brotherhood*



SAINT SARKIS CHURCH AND PARISH MOURN THE LOSS OF

# BEDROS GIVELEKIAN

CHAIRMAN EMERITUS

SEPTEMBER 21, 1933 - MAY 13, 2013

It is with deep sorrow that we say goodbye today to our beloved Bedros Givelekian. How does life go on without him? We dare not envision it but we must. Bedros Givelekian was a devoted and caring family man, a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother and uncle. He was especially fortunate to have Sonia as his life companion. She provided stability in his life, great understanding and support of his projects and commitments, and later on in life, she

married the lovely Sonia Donikian. Little did she know that she was about to embark on a very unique and exciting journey with Bedros as his life companion and key supporter. In 1965, Bedros and his family immigrated to the United States establishing their first residence in Sunnyside, Queens. In 1968, he opened his accounting office. In 1967, Bedros and Sonia were blessed with the birth of their son Arthur and in 1970, their daughter Lucy. Bedros Givelekian was an exceptionally devoted servant of the Armenian Church, Nation and many Armenian Organizations. In 1966, the Armenian-Romanian Society Inc. was created

Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia. In 1997, he was Chairman of the New York Committee in charge of the Pontifical Visit of His Holiness Aram I and in 1999 he chaired the committee organizing the Banquet honoring the appointment and elevation of His Eminence Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan as Prelate of the Armenian Apostolic Church of Eastern US and Canada. In 2000, Mr. Givelekian was the Chairman of the Armenian Genocide Commemoration organized by the Prelacy and in 2003, he was elected to the Prelacy Executive Council serving in the capacity of Treasurer. In 1968, His Holiness Vasken I, Catholicos of All Armenians, of Blessed Memory, visited New York and met with members of the Romanahai community. Mr. Givelekian was one of the few to have a private audience with His Holiness. In 1986, His Holiness visited New York again, this time Bedros was the Organizer and Chairman of a special gathering of the Romanahai community with His Holiness.



October 26, 1986 Ground Breaking Ceremony with Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian, Prelate and Archpriest Asoghik Kelejian.

was the source of loving and devoted care during his long and difficult illness. Bedros Givelekian was a true leader whose vision, faith and willingness to sacrifice to get things done, exemplified his philosophy of life. Those of us who served alongside Bedros treasured his friendship and council and were inspired by his ideas and leadership. He was our mentor, our big brother and we were privileged to have known him. His memory will always be cherished in our hearts.

Bedros Givelekian was born in 1933 in Romania, to Krikor and Dicranouhi Givelekian who were originally from Yozgat, Turkey. After his family moved to Bucharest, Bedros attended the Telecommunications Institute and later received a degree in Accounting from the University of Bucharest. During his student years, he was actively involved in Armenian cultural and sporting events. He was a member of the Sayat Nova Folk Orchestra and Dance Group, a member of the Armenian Music Band and a key player in the Armenian Table Tennis Team. In 1962, he met and



Outside the newly consecrated church. May 20, 1990

under his guidance and chairmanship. In 1977, he joined and became the Chairman of the Armenian Center in Woodside, followed by Treasurer of the St. Illuminator's Day School.

He chaired the Ardzagang Armenian TV anniversary celebrations in 1998 and 2001 and Genocide Commemorations organized by the Armenian National Committee and Friends of the ANC. For many years, Mr. Givelekian served as the Chairman of the Auditing Committee of the Prelacy. In 1995, he was a World Assembly Delegate for the election of His Holiness



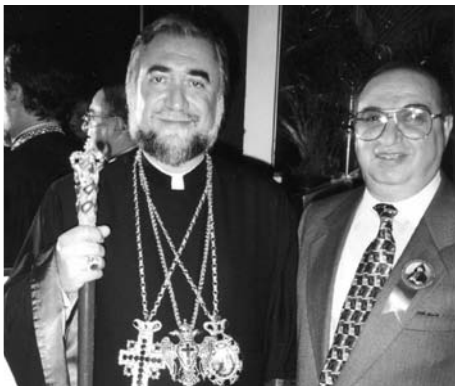
May 1990. At the Consecration Banquet with His Holiness Catholicos Karekin II of the Great House of Cilicia of Blessed Memory. Both Bedros and his wife Sonia were honored that night.

However, Bedros Givelekian's greatest challenge and commitment was to his beloved St. Sarkis Church that he served for almost 40 years, 23 years as member, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the last 20 years. Indeed, 15 of these years were under the most difficult circumstances during the rebuilding of the Church.

His service to St. Sarkis Church was recognized in 1983 and 1987 when he was named Outstanding Person of the Year. In 1990, the Eagle of Cilicia Medal was awarded to him by His Holiness Karekin II of the Great House of Cilicia of Blessed

Memory. In 1993, St Sarkis Church organized a Testimonial Banquet honoring Bedros Givelekian on his 60th birthday. On this occasion, he was made a Knight of Cilicia by His Holiness Karekin II of Cilicia. In 1998, he was the chairman of the 25th Anniversary of Priesthood of Very Rev. Anoushavan Tanielian, Pastor of St. Sarkis Church. In 2000, he chaired the New St. Sarkis Church 10th Anniversary and in 2002, the 40th Anniversary of St. Sarkis Armenian Church, both events held under the auspices of His Eminence Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan.

In 2003, Mr. Givelekian celebrated 20 years of Chairmanship of the Board of Trustees and was presented the "Eagle of Prelacy" by Srpazan Choloyan. Bedros Givelekian's service in the Brotherhood of the Knights of Vartan began in 1980. He served in various positions as Sbarabed of the Etchmiadzin Lodge, Mid-Atlantic Interlodge Chairman, National Grand Treasurer and Chairman of the 2001 Grand Convocation hosted by Etchmiadzin Lodge and Ani Otyak. In 1997, he was an active member of the Ellis Island Committee celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Church in America. He was also an active member of the Armenian Genocide Commemorations at Times Square sponsored by the Knights of Vartan. In 2000, the Broth-



In 1997 with His Holiness Catholicos Aram I of the Great House of Cilicia on his first pontifical visit to the Eastern United States.

erhood honored Mr. Bedros Givelekian as "Man of the Year". The Pastor and Board of Trustees extend their deepest condolences to his wife Sonia, his children, Arthur and his wife Annette Givelekian, Lucy and her husband Berj Kazanjian, his grandchildren Ariana, Thomas, Lara and Aris, his sister Nuni Zakarian and his nephews.

*May God Bless Your Soul and  
May You Rest in Peace.  
Asdvadz Lusavore Hokit.*

## Bedros Givelekian's Sudden Passing on Monday, May 13, 2013

*by Louiza Kubikian*

Bedros Givelekian's sudden passing on Monday morning May 13, 2013 was unexpected and shocking news for the New York Metropolitan Armenian Community. There was a great deal of disbelief and sadness as the news spread rapidly through phone calls and e-mails locally, nationally, and internationally.

The Givelekian Family, in consultation with Prelacy officials, the Saint Sarkis Church pastor, and Board of Trustees, made funeral arrangements with Jamie Funeral Chapel, in Flushing, New York. The wake was held on Tuesday May 14, 2013 at Saint Sarkis Church from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. The burial service took place at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, followed by internment at Cedar Grove cemetery and a memorial meal at Saint Sarkis Church. Since Bedros Givelekian was a member of the Knights of Vartan, a traditional Brotherhood funeral service was performed at the Jamie chapel led by NAS Kegham Tcholakian and members of the Etchmiadzin Lodge.

By 7:00 P.M., Saint Sarkis sanctuary was standing room only, as more than 400 Armenians and non-Armenians from near and far, friends, clients, and acquaintances gathered to pay their final respects. The mood was somber. Beautiful wreaths and baskets lined the walls of the church and a long line of mourners offered their condolences to the family. The casket, containing the body of the late Bedros Givelekian, faced the altar draped with beautiful roses. On his lapel he wore two medals presented to him by the Catholicosate of Cilicia.

Several individuals provided eulogies including NAS Kegham Tcholakian, representing the Knights of Vartan, and Mr. Edward Barsamian, representing the Saint Sarkis Parish. Mr. Barsamian stated that Saint Sarkis will always be the final resting place for the soul of Bedros Givelekian. Mrs. Annette Givelekian, speaking for the family, gave a tearful farewell to a beloved patriarch, husband, father, grandfather and vowed that members of the family would honor Bedros' memory by continuing the tradition of creative and productive involvement in the Church and community. The last speaker, Dr. Aram Cazazian, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, was visibly moved by Mr. Givelekian's passing and spoke on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

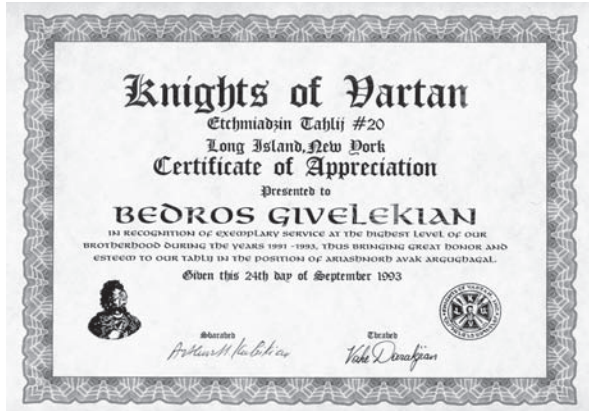
After a brief service, the clergy expressed their sentiments starting with the reading of a condolence letter from His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the See of Cilicia. His Grace Bishop Anoushavan Tanielian, pastor of St. Sarkis Church for 15 years, gave a moving recollection of the very trying early years when the church was teetering on the edge of closing its doors for lack of funds to pay the mortgage and day-to-day operations of the church. Several times His Grace stopped to collect himself as he, and those in attendance, fought back tears recalling the high anxiety days and sleepless nights when the future looked bleak. The wake ended with the singing of Hayr Mer.

The funeral service on the morning of Wednesday, May 15th, concluded with an emotional eulogy by the Rev. Father Nareg Terterian. Der Nareg respectfully spoke of Bedros' wisdom, organizational skills and generosity of spirit. He also spoke about his last encounter with Bedros, a few weeks prior, when Bedros asked him to continue to diligently encourage everyone to work to make Saint Sarkis a beautiful and inspiring place of worship for the Armenian community.

A long procession of cars proceeded to Cedar Grove Cemetery for internment services performed by His Grace, Bishop Anoushavan Tanielian with assistance from Rev. Fr. Nareg Terterian, Rev. Fr. Moushegh Der Kalustian and Rev. Fr. Mesrob Lakisian, Pastor of St. Illuminator's Cathedral.

Church and post burial Hokejash arrangements were handled by the Board of Trustees and Ladies Guild who made all the necessary preparations in short notice. Two of Bedros' clients in the food industry donated Romanian specialties which Mr. Givelekian enjoyed and the main course was catered.

At the Memorial Luncheon, several speakers expressed their feelings toward Mr. Bedros Givelekian including Dr. Herant Markarian, Arch Deacon Frank Kabarajian, who wrote a poem in his memory, Drs. Louiza and Arthur Kubikian, Edward Barsamian and Dr. Aram Cazazian, personal friends of the deceased, Gary Dmoch, Esq. and family members, Arthur Givelekian and Berj Kazanjian. This sad day came to a close with remarks and a prayer from His Grace Bishop Anoushavan Tanielian.



One of two Man of the Year Awards given to Bedros in 1993 and 2000.



Sayat Nova Dance Group with Bedros in the center.



Sayat Nova Orchestra with Bedros playing accordion.



With his lovely wife Sonia Donikian. They met and married in 1962.



Annette and Arthur Givelekian, Tomas, Berj and Lucy Kazanjian, Bedros, Ariana and Sonia.



In 1965, Bedros and his family immigrated to the United States and established their first residence in Sunnyside, Queens. In 1968, he opened his accounting office. He and his wife were blessed with their son Arthur in 1967 and their daughter Lucy in 1970.

Images from the life of Bedros Givelekian from the early days with Sayat Nova and his young family through his numerous awards and recognitions.



With Mayor David Dinkins and members of the Knights of Vartan. 1993.

After his arrival in the United States, Bedros joined the young Romanahai community and helped with the formation of their Soccer Team.



With Peter Vallone, Sr. at the Times Square Commemoration.



Enjoying time with friends in 1990.



In 1993, St. Sarkis Church organized a Testimonial Banquet honoring Bedros on his 60th birthday. From left, Sonia and Bedros Givelekian, Lucy Givelekian, Mrs. Dicranuhi Givelekian, and Arthur Givelekian with Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian and Very Rev. Anoushavan Tanielian (now Bishop).



Planning a Fundraiser with Bedros Givelekian (far left), Amy and Manoug Gostanian, Zabel and Hagop Voskerjian, Karnik and Anna Bedrossian, Jack and Lita Chadrjian. Seated: Der Asoghik Kelejian, Frank and Aida Kabarajian, Isabel and Albert Derian, 1987.



In 1993, St. Sarkis Church organized a Testimonial Banquet honoring Bedros Givelekian on his 60th birthday and on this occasion he was made a Knight of Cilicia by His Holiness Catholicos Karekin II of the Great House of Cilicia of Blessed Memory.



At the April 24, 2000 Armenian Genocide Commemoration event in Flushing Meadows Park that Bedros chaired with Archbishop Oshagan Cholyan, Ambassador Movses Abelian and Very Rev. Anoushavan Tanielian (now Bishop).



In 2003, Governor Pataki issued a proclamation for April 24th. Photograph from Governor Pataki's office in New York City.



In 1993, Mayor Rudolf Giuliani meeting with Bedros and members of the Armenian Community at Woodside Armenian Center during his mayoral campaign.



New York City, 1986. Welcoming His Holiness Vasken I, Catholicos of All Armenians, of Blessed Memory the Romanahai community. Bedros chaired a special gathering of the Romanahai community with His Holiness.



In 1990, the Godfathers help bless the newly erected church.

In 2000, Bedros chaired the Armenian Genocide Commemoration organized by the Prelacy and in 2003, he was elected to the Prelacy Executive Council, serving as Treasurer



## Eulogy from Mr. Edward Barsamian, Former Chairman, Board of Trustees

*'GHLANKUH YERAZ EH YEV IERAZUH MI GHLANK'  
 "LIFE IS BUT A DREAM and DREAMS MAKE A LIFE"  
 - Hovhannes Toumanian Armenian Poet*

To most of us it still feels like a dream that Bedros Givelekian is no longer with us. A day after his passing, I instinctively reached for the phone to speak with him only to realize that the dream was real. We lost a respected friend, and Saint Sarkis lost a son, a pillar, and benefactor. His legacy is embedded in every stone of this church as well as with most of the members of the Saint Sarkis family.

Whenever society honors its finest, attributes like leader, motivator, hard worker, generous and self-sacrificing person come to mind. All of the above and more describe Mr. Bedros Givelekian, a former Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Saint Sarkis Armenian Church for 20 years.

A complex person, Mr. Bedros Givelekian, with almost four decades of involvement in the community, was always guided by very profound and basic beliefs: God, Country, Family, Friends and Community.

It is this set of values that gave him the determination to direct and oversee the rebuilding of a beautiful new Saint Sarkis Church. He held leadership positions in numerous Armenian organizations and was a friend and advisor to so many. Blessed with a wonderful, supportive family and uncompromising in his belief and support of his friends, Mr. Bedros Givelekian epitomized the finest qualities of a leader.

Who was Bedros Givelekian? He was a friend, teacher, businessman, husband, father, advisor, Godfather of the church, 100% Armenian and for more than 20 years in the Board of Trustees of Saint Sarkis, he was a leader and the face of Saint Sarkis. A man of deep faith, Bedros would start his work-day with a visit at Saint Sarkis Church to pray before going to his office. A man of God, God took him "home" without pain and suffering.

When he spoke about things he deeply cared about, his true feelings and emotions were never far from the surface. His speeches were often interrupted by heart-felt tears, tears that he could not hold back.

Some of us looked up to him as a wise older brother and who never let us down. He always pushed us to do more, accomplish things, participate in community life, be good Armenians. During the trying times, following the 1985 fire, first Bedros and Jack Chadrjian, then Bedros alone carried the burden of the huge mortgage of the Church. Who knew?

He availed himself of all available means, friendships, business acquaintances, clients, and other benefactors to secure a future for our beloved church. Like a skilled Captain, he guided Saint Sarkis to safety and the stability we almost take for granted today. Through all this time, and more, his wife Sonia and family were the strength behind Bedros Givelekian. Sonia, a caring and understanding spouse with a deep understanding of Bedros' need to be active and involved in the Community, protected Bedros from himself. She tried to persuade him to be less involved and more mindful of his health and encouraged him to enjoy his grandchildren even more.

Those who worked with him appreciated his intellect, his experience and his wisdom. He had the ability to solicit the best in people, people who might otherwise live a life uninvolved and possibly devoid of purpose, interest or significance.

His accomplishments in the Armenian Community are numerous and significant. Bedros, and several others present here tonight,

established and chaired the Armenian-Romanian Society of New York. In The Knights of Vartan, he served at both the local and national levels, chaired national convocations, and organized and sponsored numerous festivals, cultural and commemorative events. He served in the Executive Council and in other functions at the Armenian Prelacy.

But his greatest legacy would have to be this church, St. Sarkis Church – this edifice. Although his physical remains will be interned at the Cedar Grove Cemetery, his true memorial, his "KhatchKar" (stone-cross), is this Holy edifice, Saint Sarkis Church, the house that Bedros helped build.

I would like to close with words that were dear to Bedros Givelekian and word he repeated often: *Getze Hayasdanub, Getze hye joghovurtub, getze Saint Sarkis Eghghetzin, to which I would add ... Getze Bedros Givelekianub.*

*"Although his physical remains will be interned at Cedar Grove Cemetery, his true memorial, his Khatchkar, is this Holy edifice, Saint Sarkis Church, the house that Bedros helped build"*



*Dear Bedros wherever you are, you will never be forgotten.*

## Eulogy from Dr. Louiza Kubikian

*It is hard to believe that Bedros Givelekian is no longer with us...*

He was a unique individual, a natural born leader and organizer who had a profound influence on many individuals and organizations. An accountant by profession, his expertise extended far beyond solving tax problems. He was someone who would give you good counsel, someone you could trust, someone who solved your problems and gave you a sense of security.

Bedros Givelekian had an encyclopedic mind, and a vast archive of documents, papers and information about anything and everything. He held leadership positions in many Armenian organizations, participated in major Armenian activities, and chaired so many major events that he was known to his friends as "Mr. Chairman". Bedros was very resourceful, had great ideas and initiatives. Bedros had a special gift of bringing out the best in people by challenging them to develop their talents. He was the best fundraiser I knew, appealing to a select list of generous donors and tapping into his clientele for additional donations to help the church. When he called for donations, the answer on the other side was always yes.

I have known Bedros all my life because our families were neighbors in Romania. He inspired me to get involved in serving St. Sarkis Church twenty three years ago. At that time, he was Chairman of the Board of Trustees and the church was facing many difficulties. For years, the Board made every effort to secure the financial health of the church. On his 70th birthday in 2003, Bedros was presented a collage of photos from the 4 Musketeers: Artos (Arthur Kubikian), Portos (Bedros Givelekian), Aramis (Aram Cazazian), Dartagnan (Edward Barsamian) and The Lady in Distress (Louiza Kubikian). I was finally inducted into the Boys Club. We were a special group of friends, each with a special talent, who respected and sup-

ported each other with one singular goal in mind – to serve our church. For Arthur and I, Bedros was a dear friend, a counselor, a big brother, someone you could always count on. I still hear his voice when he greeted me at the office "TA ZI – tell me!" His desk is empty now but I can still see him seated behind a big pile of papers he had carefully sorted in his mind, reaching out to give me just the right payroll.

*"His desk is empty now but I can still see him seated behind a big pile of papers he had carefully sorted in his mind, reaching out to give me just the right one"*



*"I guess God had a plan for Bedros. He, who had devoted so many years of his life nurturing and protecting Saint Sarkis Church, spent the last hours of his physical presence on earth in the church he dearly loved"*

Our group was planning a Romanahye Reunion for October 2013, around his 80th birthday. It was to be done once again at St. Sarkis Church. We met on Thursday, May 9, 2013, to discuss details of the catering, the music, etc. and Bedros was very excited about new project he had in mind: commissioning a statue of Vehapar Vazken I of Blessed Memory to be placed in the courtyard of the Armenian Church in Bucharest. This was to be a gift from the Armenian-Romanian Community in the United States in honor of their most important son, Vehapar Vazken I, who was born and raised in Bucharest, Romania. I had even planned a conference call for Monday, May 13th. That conference call did not occur, but we must make every effort to keep his dream alive and fulfill his last wish.

In closing, I want to extend our deepest sympathy to Bedros' wife, Sonia Givelekian, her children and their families, and all of us who will miss the irreplaceable Bedros Givelekian.

I guess God had a plan for Bedros. He, who had devoted so many years of his life nurturing and protecting Saint Sarkis Church, spent the last hours of his physical presence on earth in the church he dearly loved. He had come full circle, he was home for the last time.

*Asdvadz Lusavore Hokin!*



## Eulogy from Dr. Arthur Kubikian

Bedros Givelekian was not just a friend, but an elder brother and mentor. In fact, we had a relationship on a number of levels. On a personal level, we were in-laws (khnamies) in a way as Sonia's first cousin Nadia is married to my first cousin Garo. On a professional level, he was my family and business accountant for at least the last 30 years, and I was always impressed by his high intelligence, unbelievable memory, know how, skill-in-action and professionalism. What I did not expect however, when I recently mentioned his passing to an artist client of his, was to be told that Bedros had truly artistic skills. This painter informed me that one did not need to be a painter or sculptor to be an artist, that Bedros was an artist because he had the ability to see things far and beyond the immediate and the obvious.

Bedros was, in my book, the ultimate community activist and organizer. He believed that one must not be just concerned about one's health, family, business and profession, but one must also be of service to the Armenian community, be it the church, cultural, or fraternal organizations. He inspired many with this message including Dr. Louiza Kubikian, Dr. Aram Cazazian, Mr. Edward Barsamian, and myself. He found in us kindred spirits so we became his supporters in service to St. Sarkis Church, the Armenian Prelacy and other organizations.

We all know, I believe, of his many years of sacrificial service to St. Sarkis Church and the Prelacy. I just want to mention two items that I will always remember. After the 1985 fire and the church rebuilding process, it seemed that no bank wanted to have anything to do with financing our church reconstruction. The banks considered it too risky an enterprise especially for a small parish like ours. Somehow, through his connections, Bedros found a Greek-owned bank to finance the construction loan – he used to say it happened because the Greeks are very church oriented. In fact, Bedros loved our church so much that he secretly guaranteed the subsequent mortgage with his personal home without even informing his wife Sonia. That's another story. Bedros' acumen was demonstrated again when he fought hard for the parish to keep the shopping strip as St. Sarkis's share of Mrs. Suzanne Hagopian's estate rather than her liquid assets as the executors insisted upon. This helped the parish, not only with the very high monthly mortgage payments, but in providing a continuing monthly income when the mortgage was paid.

Bedros was also instrumental in encouraging me to join the Knights of Vartan Brotherhood, the Long Island Lodge. As you may well know, the Knights of Vartan were founded in the United States in the aftermath of the Armenian Genocide to help promote the preservation of the Armenian Church and Heritage, and the belief that with the assistance of the Divine all things are possible including a future Armenian Homeland. Bedros served the Knights of Vartan with great distinction at the highest levels: twice as Mid-Atlantic area Inter-lodge Chairman for the five metropolitan lodges as well as for two years as Grand Treasurer of the National Leadership Council. Looking back over the years, I believe that he probably was proudest, in 1985 at the 70th Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide in Times Square.

Bedros, as one of the two co-chairmen, engineered the display on the dais of the Armenian flag, which many at that time did not recognize as the Armenian flag. Of course, after the independence of Armenia, that same Armenian flag became the flag of the country and is displayed by all Armenian local organizations.

Over the years, Bedros always attempted to keep the Armenian-Romanian community active by organizing several banquet reunions and welcomes for various visits to the metropolitan area of the most famous Romanahai, His Holiness Catholicos Vazken

I of Blessed Memory. The last time I saw Bedros was at an organizational meeting to plan another Dinner-Dance Reunion. The meeting was a few days before his death. The aim of the reunion was to reactivate the Romanahai community with the profits going to his beloved St. Sarkis Church. Bedros also had another project in mind – to ask for the support of the community for the construction of a statue of His Holiness Catholicos, Vazken I, on the grounds of the Armenian Church in Bucharest, Romania.

So, I end my reflections by repeating our belief as mentioned by Dr. Herand Markarian, that while we all have to give up our bodies someday, we are all Souls and, at the Spiritual level, immortal. So, Dear Bedros we wish you well on this new journey and may God be with you.



*“Bedros was an artist because he had the ability to see things far and beyond the immediate and the obvious.”*

## Eulogy from Dr. Herand Markarian

This is not a “eulogy” for Bedros; he actually never departed. His life accomplishments, his numerous contributions to all facets of the Armenian community and his impact on the lives of so many people, remind me of the famous Hashvehartar poem of the great Armenian poet, Vahan Tekeyan, where he looks back at his life and ponders what is left of him to be cherished. He says, “What has remained of my life? Strange! Only that, which I have given to others.”

Indeed, look around; look at the New York Armenian institutions: St. Sarkis Church, the Armenian Prelacy, the Armenian Center, Knights of Vartan, all of which, at different times, had his blessed “touch”. His legacy, however, remains at St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church, where he was instrumental in building and helping the church face all kinds of financial difficulties.

Everyone who had worked with Bedros, realized that he was the “Boss”. Whenever he was elected to the Church Board or other Boards and committees, he was always elected as the chairman. He had demonstrated the best qualities that are sought in a leader. He guided genuinely and with utmost success. During his numerous chairmanship responsibilities, there wasn't one activity where he failed.

Bedros shared his knowledge in a sincere, friendly manner; never degraded other ideas, never put down a suggestion without really studying it thoroughly. The many individuals he shared responsibilities with in preserving and advancing, especially St. Sarkis Church, can attest to that fact.

His devotion was unbelievable. His protection of Armenians' rights was immensely deep. That was partially attributed to his upbringing. His father migrated from Turkey. He grew up in Europe with a full knowledge of his history. He took upon himself to carry on the values that he had inherited. His Armenian past was so dear and precious that he never stopped pursuing to accomplish more. He knew he was here

for a purpose – to propagate *Armenianism*. That was the reason why he did his utmost to advance the welfare of his beloved St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church.

When I look back at his accomplishments, his convictions, his stand on issues concerning the Armenian people, he emerges as a giant individual, a *Medz Hye*.

As humans, we are composed of three parts: a physical being, a soul, and a spirit. The physical part, or the BODY, houses the soul as a venue; the God-given physical being of limited life span. Blessed is the person who realizes that and does his utmost to “use” this venue to the best and fullest of its limitations. That is what Bedros did. He never got tired of running around attending meetings and events. He defied his illness and pursued his convictions. He never stopped giving advice, even when he was in pain. Secondly, the SOUL. According to our Christian faith the soul rises to Heaven, to eternal life; residing in God's Kingdom where God himself will grant him eternal peace. That is why we say “God bless his soul”; and blessed he is. Thirdly, the SPIRIT. It remains here, on earth, with us, with his acquaintances. Bedros' spirit impacted each and every one of us. Some people call it memories, I call it resonance. It is what resonates in us of his ideas, thoughts and his pursuit of *Model Armenianism*.

Bedros was a very lucky man. During his entire adult life, he had a supporting pillar at home, Sonia, his encouraging and caring wife, who stood by him during every crisis. Bedros knew when he was away from home, his Armenian home was in the safe care of his Armenian lady, Sonia.

People like Bedros never depart. His presence is felt every time we come to St. Sarkis Church, attend commemorative and celebratory events, or think about Armenia and Armenianism. I am certain his presence will never die away.

*Tsudesootyoon, Bedros.*

## Ode to Bedros, a Poem by Deacon Frank Kabarajian

Ամէնքս ալ շատ յուզուած ենք այսօր: Այս անակնկալ եւ դառն մահը շատ ցնցեց բոլորս: Չենք կարող հաւատալ թէ Պետրոսը չկայ այլեւս: Միշտ պիտի ուզենք զայն տեսնել գրասենեակը կամ պատուոյ սեղաններուն շուրջ: Որո՞ւ պիտի հարցնենք ամէն ինչ, ո՞վ ճար պիտի գտնէ մեր ցաւերուն:

Քայց փառք Աստուծոյ որ Պետրոսը եւ Սօնան հասցուցին երկու պատուակալ զաւակներ՝ Արթուրը եւ Լուսինը:

Քանի աւելի խօսիմ այնքան աւելի պիտի յուզուիմ: Գիտէք ես ոտանաւոր գրող չեմ, բայց այնքան ազդուած էի որ սրտէս բղխած բան մը շարադրեցի Պետրոսին համար:

Պիտի շնորհամք քեզ յափտեան  
Եղար ամէնու միշտ հոգատար  
Տուիր առատ եկեղեցոյ եւ մարդկութեան  
Բոպէի մը մէջ թողեցիր մեզ անկատար  
Ով Տէր Աստուած լսէ մեր ձայն  
Սուրբերուն մէջ դասեցուր զայն:

## Eulogy from Gary Dmoch, Esquire

My name is Gary Dmoch and I have been Bedros' attorney and friend for over 25 years. We all know that Bedros was more than a friend; he was an adviser, a counselor and a protector. Bedros was a beacon for the Armenian community and for his friends and clients. In times of trouble, you were drawn to Bedros. He was a man you came to with your problems...not necessarily tax problems. It was amazing, after you spoke with Bedros you felt relieved and, although your problem may not have gone away, you did not feel overwhelmed by it and felt with Bedros' help you could conquer it.

I met Bedros approximately 25 years ago, when he came to my office on Northern Boulevard without an appointment and introduced himself as an accountant in the area. He came to my office not to ask about a legal problem for himself; but a legal problem one of his clients was having. Without disclosing the identity of the client he continued to ask me for ways to solve the problem. After talking to Bedros I asked myself, "what kind of man is this, a man who cared so much for another?" I was so impressed by his sincerity, his kindness and his honesty. I knew that he was a man I had to get to know. As I spoke with him I immediately liked him, and as time went on and we continued to do business, I trusted him, I respected him, and then I loved him.

*"Bedros' means stone stone [and] he was truly our rock...he carried our problems on his shoulders".*

Bedros was our "rock". I looked up the meaning of the name Bedros and amazingly found that it means "stone". He was truly our rock. He carried our problems on his shoulders. He was strong but gentle, never judgmental, and always compassionate. He advised us like a father and had tremendous empathy. When we were sad, he was sad. When we were happy, he was happy. When we were troubled, he was troubled. Talking to Bedros was like talking to a priest. He gave you strength and the courage to go on.

I am a Polish Catholic; unfortunately I was not lucky enough to be Armenian. In Catholicism we have saints, much like your religion, and I believe that the saint most resembling Bedros is Saint Thomas Moore.

Saint Thomas was the supreme adviser and counselor to King Henry VIII (a Protestant). He is the patron saint of statesmen and politicians. He was known for his gentleness, his loveliness and his sincerity. He was a "man of conscience" and a "man for all seasons". In fact a movie was made about him titled, "A Man for All Seasons".

We all know Bedros is irreplaceable and is now gone from us; but I know he is with God...waiting for God to ask him advice.

## Letter from Karl Alajajian

Today I could not be present to attend hokenhankist for our beloved friend Bedros Givelekian.

I knew Bedros over 25 years. We worked together to help people obtain mortgages and also we worked together for the church when I was a Board Member for twelve years.

He was a simple, generous and humble man who not only worked diligently for the construction of the new church but also helped many other Armenian organizations including St. Sarkis Saturday Armenian School. I honestly believe that without him the church would have never survived. But he was so humble that he never accepted the credit that was due to him.

All his life he helped and advised so many Armenian families, both in their private and business lives. Some 20 years ago when I was in his office discussing how to raise funds to

*"... I was in his office discussing how to raise funds... he expressed his concern [that]the Saturday School... only had six students at the time but he insisted that we keep the school open saying that we promised... to establish the Armenian School at St. Sarkis and [we must] keep that promise."*

pay the church mortgage, he expressed his concern about the Saturday School. We only had six students at the time but he insisted that we keep the school open saying that "we promised Mrs. Suzanne Hagopian to establish the Armenian School at St. Sarkis [with her donation] and therefore we must do our best to keep that promise." I am glad to report that about a month ago I was attending an annual Saturday School hantes and graduation in the general hall of St. Sarkis and over 50 students were in attendance.

I rejoiced and remembered Bedros' commitment to keep the school open. I was thankful to God then to Suzanne and finally to Bedros that his dream was finally realized.

God Bless his soul and my heartfelt sympathies to the Givelekian family.

## Eulogies from the family of Bedros Givelekian

Integrity, faith, kindness, generosity, leadership, honor, dignity, perseverance and respect; these are the words that best describe our father. He was a wonderful son to his parents, brother to his sister and grew up to be a loving and caring husband, father, uncle, Godfather and friend to many. I know I am not alone when I say that I have learned so much from him. To me he was more than my father-in-law, he was my hero. I admired him and wanted to be just like him. I do not think there are enough words to describe exactly how much he meant to his family and friends. To know him is to love him.

He saw a lot during his lifetime. Arriving as an immigrant, he lived the American dream. With hard work and perseverance he made a better life for his family. As others would arrive to this country starting with nothing, he would always offer a helping hand, guidance, encouragement, words of wisdom and above all, help people to believe in themselves.

Dad was a very hard-working man. His accounting office was very important to him and he enjoyed the office so much that he worked until the very end. He felt that keeping busy was what kept him young. Arthur decided to become an accountant because of his father. He wanted to work side-by-side with him everyday and make his father proud. Both Arthur and Lucy are very lucky that they were able to work with their father. He also created very strong ties with Stephan, Sam, Svetlana and Levon. The accounting office became a family to him.

Lucy has fond memories of summer vacations with her father. There are many beautiful memories from Lake George which happened to be one of Dad's favorite places. In fact he had taken a picture of Lake George and had it hung in his office. Arthur and I will never forget our first trip to Armenia with Dad. All three of us were so excited to go since it would have been the first time that all three of us were going to see our motherland. Words cannot describe the excitement we felt at the airport. After a connection, when we were on the airplane to Armenia, the stewardess spoke in Armenian and we had tears of joy in our eyes. It was so magical and we were so grateful to have shared it with him.

Ariana, Tomas, Lara and Aris will miss their "Papa" so very much. They adored him. Papa's face would light up whenever one of his grandchildren would enter the room. We would call Aris Dad's "mini-me". Lara adored her "Papa".

She would always say to him "Papa do you know I love you? So, so much", and plant a big kiss on his cheek.

We are very proud of our father and everything that he accomplished. To Dad success was knowing that you gave it your all, and he honestly felt that there was nothing that could not be achieved, as long as you persevered. I remember during the adoption process when we were waiting to bring Lara and Aris home, at times I would be very scared that something would go wrong, and he would say "achigs gela", "My daughter it will happen". He taught Arthur many valuable lessons in life. One was that a man is only as good as his kind gestures. Life is about serving God and generosity.

Dad was a community leader and he served many different Armenian causes, but none was closer to his heart than Saint Sarkis. Saint Sarkis was an extension of his family. His voice would fill a room and he could make people laugh, especially during his speeches. He was loved and respected by many and when you met him it was hard not to like him. He built beautiful friendships inside as well as outside of the church.

*"..there [aren't] enough words to describe exactly how much he meant to his family and friends. To know him is to love him."*



Bedros with his wife, children and grandchildren in March 2012.

Prior to his health disintegrating, Dad was full of life and had a lot of energy, but unfortunately the last few years were very difficult for him. With his health failing him, he slowed down a bit and was spending more time at home; in fact it was during these final years that Bedros and Sonia's bond grew stronger. They leaned on each other and supported each other for better or worse. When I asked Sonia about one of her fondest memories of Dad, she said "going to the food market and picking out fresh fruits and vegetables". Dad's favorite thing lately was smoothies. He was fortunate to have spent his last day on earth with his immediate family.

As difficult as it is to say goodbye to him, he has moved on to a better place. In the last year of his life, he has told me a few times that he was tired. Not just physically, but mentally. As hard as it was for me to hear, I understood what he was telling me. The dialysis was taking its toll on him. He was ready. The family thanks you for your kind words and gestures. As we say goodbye to one of the most beautiful people we know, he is already on his way to heaven where he will have eternal peace. We love you dad, and you will forever be in our hearts.

-- Annette Givelekian

Dear Papa,

I never expected the day to come but when it came, it hit me hard. It changed my way of thinking forever and caused me to enjoy and be grateful for everything I have because you never know when it will disappear. However, as you, my loved one passed on, I began to remember all the special little moments that we spent in life together.

I remember when I had to stay at your house during the hurricane, when we sat outside together, talked and enjoyed the pool, or even when I was younger, I remember all the stories you told me. I will cherish all of those memories forever.

When I am older, I will tell my children about you, who will tell their children of how you were a great man and of all your wonderful achievements and contributions in life. In the past, you would always ask me about my grades and school. You were so proud of me and I know you still are. I am also very proud of you. It is truly an honor to call you my grandfather or as I would call you, "Papa." I was your first grandchild and also the luckiest as my aunt would say because I was the one who got to spend the most time with you and I was the one who was able to make the most memories with you for 15 short years but I will hold on to those memories forever. Words cannot describe how much I miss you and love you but I know that you're in heaven always watching over me. You are in a better place now and someday, one day, I will be reunited with you again.

Love, Ariana Kazanjian

*"I was your first grandchild and also the luckiest...because I was the one who got to spend the most time with you"*

To my beloved Father who departed unexpectedly from our lives,

What a beautiful day we shared celebrating Tomas' birthday together just hours ago. I will always remember and cherish those final moments together. I will miss seeing and hearing your voice at the office where I developed a closer bond with you. I will miss sharing my struggles and triumphs with you during brief moments of conversation in between our office paperwork. Your inspiring words, I shall never forget, always advising me to have patience and faith in God Almighty to help lead me down the right path in life.

*"Although [it] has been a difficult time, we believe you were called by God for a greater project to work on in Heaven."*

Thank you for all the sacrifices you made to provide for our family. Thank you for your love, kindness and generosity. Although losing the patriarch of our family has been a difficult time, we believe you were called by God for a greater project to work on in Heaven. I will miss you terribly but I will celebrate your life and accomplishments forever and live to tell your story with the incredible memories you left behind.

*"Anyone can become a Father but it takes a special person to be a Dad".*

*I love you always, Lucy Kazanjian*

Der Nareg,

*I wanted to thank you for your guidance and kindness. It really means a lot to Arthur and I. It has been a very difficult few weeks for us, and we are trying to stay strong. I finally told Lara and Aris. Lara cried a lot and said she wants to see Papa, she misses him. Aris wanted to know if Papa went in a rocket to get to Heaven since Heaven is further than outer space. He also wanted to know if Papa feels better now that he is in Heaven. I told him that Papa is doing very well now.*

*-- Annette*



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		Manuelian, Vartkes & Mary	\$50.00
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		Mgrdechian, Elizabeth	\$25.00
		Simitian, Estelle	\$25.00
		Simitian, Mark & Estelle	\$25.00
		Tcholakian, Lucin	\$25.00
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		Vartanian, Mihran & Mirna	\$25.00
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		Agasian, Garbis & Anneta	\$20.00
		Emanuelle, Frava	\$20.00
		Manuelian, Nubar	\$20.00
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*We extend our condolences to the family & pray that the Almighty Lord bestows repose upon the soul of Bedros Givelekian, Chairman Emeritus*

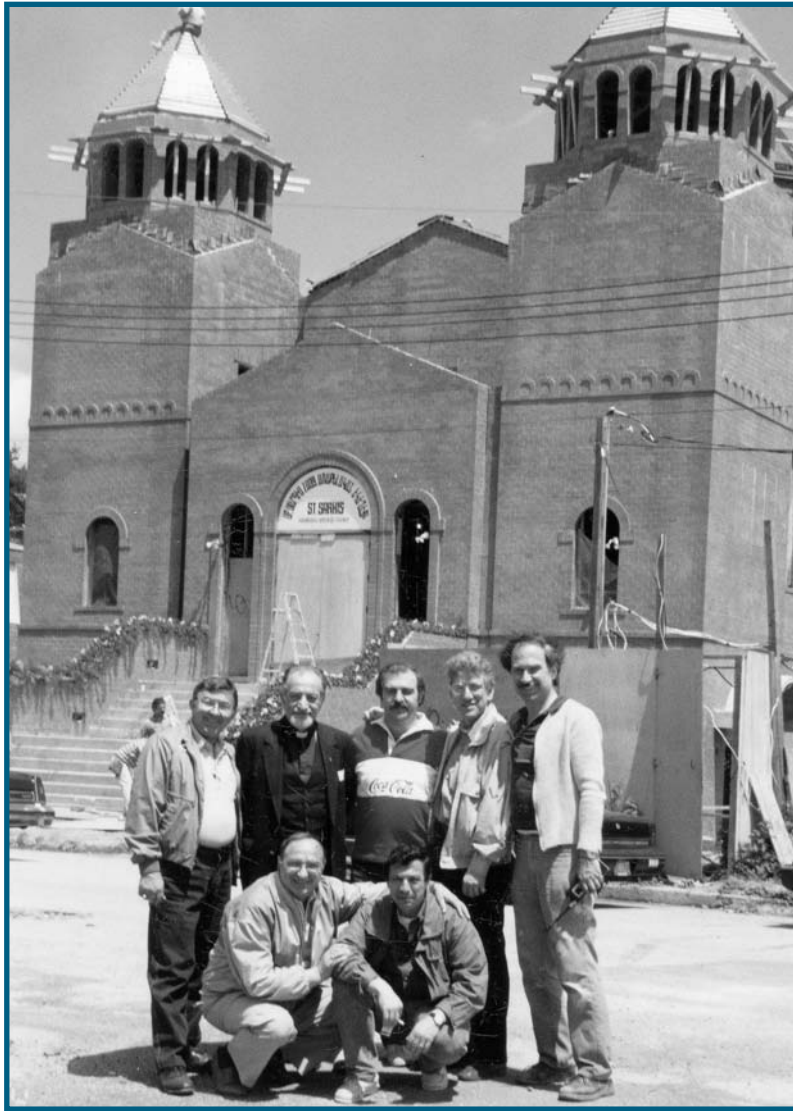


*Քրիստոս, Որդի Աստուծոյ, անոխակալ եւ բարեգութ, գթա քո արարչական սիրովդ ի հոգիս հանգուցեալ ծառայից քոց: Յիշեա Տէր մանաւանդ զհոգին նորոգ հանգուցեալ ծառայի քում ՊԵՏՐՈՍ ՃԻՎԷԼԷԿԵԱՆԻ:*

*Յիշեա՛ յաւուր մեծի գալստեան արքայութեան քոյ, արա՛ արժանի ողորմութեան, քաւութեան եւ թողութեան մեղաց, դասաւորեալ պայծառացո՛ ընդ սուրբս քո յաջակողմեան դասուն: Զի դու ես Տէր եւ Արարիչ ամենեցուն, դատաւոր կենդանեաց եւ մեռելոց, եւ քեզ վայելէ փառք իշխանութիւն եւ պատիւ այժմ եւ միշտ եւ յաւիտեանս յաւիտենից. ամէն:*

O Christ, Son of God, forbearing and compassionate, have mercy, through your love as creator upon the souls of your departed servants, and especially upon the soul of your servant BEDROS GIVELEKIAN.

Remember him on the great day of the coming of your Kingdom. Make him worthy of your mercy, remission and forgiveness of sins. Illuminate and rank him among the Saints at your right hand. For you are Lord and creator of all, judge of the quick and of the dead. And to you is befitting glory, dominion and honor, now and always and forever and ever. Amen.



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