

DR. HRATCH TCHILINGIRIAN LECTURES AT THE CATHOLICOSATE OF CILICIA



Dr. Tchilingirian

Upon the recent invitation of Archbishop Nareg Alemezian, the Dean of the Theological Seminary of the Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia, Dr. Hrach Tchilingirian, a lecturer at Cambridge University and Hon. President of St. Sarkis Church Trust, offered a lecture titled "Armenian Church and Communities in Europe" to the priests, deacons and students of the seminary of the Catholicosate in *Bikfaya*, Lebanon. Archbishop Nareg welcomed Dr. Tchilingirian to the seminary, saying, "the presence of Deacon Hrach among us demonstrates that all Armenian students whether in seminaries or university faculties converge around the same goal, namely, serving the Armenian Church responsibly."

Dr. Tchilingirian, who is also a scholar of the Armenian Church and an ordained deacon, gave a

brief historical background about the formation of Armenian communities in Europe and then focused on internal and external challenges facing the church in Europe. Internally, he explained, the church needs to address the expectations and needs of third and fourth generation Armenians in Europe. There are no substantive institutional structures, such as in Lebanon, that sustain cohesive Armenian community life; and that the church has not kept pace with developments in the 21st century. Externally, Dr. Tchilingirian pointed out, the biggest challenge for the church is ideological and socio-cultural trends, especially secularism, atheism and liberalism in society. At the conclusion of the lecture, Archbishop Gorun Babian, a senior member

of the Catholicosate of Cilicia, thanked Dr Tchilingirian, whom he has known for many years, for encouraging the seminarians to strengthen themselves with the faith of the Armenian Church as they prepare to serve the Church. We look forward to hearing Dr. Tchilingirian's interesting lecture here in London, hopefully soon.



"DEEPEST THANKS AND GRATITUDE"

Actor and TV popular personality, Kevork Malikyan, completed his four-week fundraising efforts at the gates of the St. Sarkis and St. Yeghiche Churches in London, per the permission of the Primate, raising over 1000 for the rebuilding of St. Giragos Church in Dikranagerd (Dirabakir). The *Primate's Office* has recently received the following letter from Mr. Kevork Malikyan with the request to kindly publish it in the E-Newsletter. "I want to express my deepest thanks and gratitude to our most devoted Primate, Very Revd Dr. Vahan Hovhannessian, and to the London Armenian faithful and community at large, young and old, rich and poor, who so generously donated towards the reconstruction costs of St. Giragos Church in Diarbakir (*Dikranagerd*), where I was born: a church I attended as a child holding the hands of my beloved father; a church where I served the altar when a student at the Soorp Khach Tibrevank (seminary) in Istanbul. The upkeep of our heritage (faith, history, literature, songs, music, schools and church building, have always been maintained by the generosity of the Armenian people, and great benefactors. I thank all in the UK who have generously supported the reconstruction of St. Giragos. We have over 2000 churches and monasteries in Turkey. Let's hope we can gradually rebuild all our religious sites and monuments, with the support of the local municipalities, and prove once again that mosques and churches could and should stand, side by side, as they have done for centuries. Our work continues with St. Giragos and many more to come... with God's blessing."



– Kevork Malikyan

THANK YOU, FELLOW ARMENIANS!

The following letter was received by the Primate's Office from Grant Sargsyan, addressed to the Primate:

"I am writing to thank you for publishing Gevorg's article on your e-newsletter. I am pleased to say that after each publication we have received donations and i would be most thankful if it can be published for another couple of weeks. ...I will keep you updated about Gevorg and thank you again for your support."

Thank you all for your generous support. – *The Primate's Office*

DO YOU KNOW OR KNOW ABOUT "ELIZABETH ZABIL MAROUTIAN"?

An enquiry received by the official website of the Armenian Church of the UK and Ireland: www.armenianchurch.co.uk, seeking information concerning a certain Elizabeth Zabil Maroutian born 12th January 1918. She was Armenian who lived, possibly, in the USSR or Iran. If you know of any information about Elizabeth Zabil Maroutian, please forward the information directly to Zoe at: misszbutler@hotmail.com. Thank you.