The Armenian Apostolic Church Canonizes Victims of Armenian Genocide

The Armenian Apostolic Church is set to canonize the victims of the Armenian Genocide as the country prepares to mark the centenary of the horrific incident which saw over a million people killed.

The church, which follows Eastern Orthodox traditions, will hold a solemn liturgy at the Patriarchal See of the Catholicosate in Echmiadzin on April 23, a church official said at a press conference on February 3.

On the canonization, Bishop Bagrat Galstanyan said the process took nearly two years before church leaders decreed sainthood for the victims in the genocide.

In a statement, the head of the Patriarchal See of Echmiadzin explained the implication of the canonization on the victims of the genocide, which happened towards the end of World War I.

"The Armenian Church does not sanctify. It recognizes the sanctity of saints or of those people that is already common among people or has been shown with evidence," said Catholicos Karekin in a statement to the Roman Catholic news agency Fides.

"The Church recognizes only what happened, that is, the Genocide."

Discussions on bestowing the honor on the genocide victims began in September 2013 at a meeting in Echmiadzin. The mother church of the Armenian Apostolic Church, located in the city of Vagharshapat, Armenia.

The gathering was a milestone in the church, bringing together all Armenian Apostolic bishops from the Patriarchal See of Echmiadzin, based in Armenia and headed by Catholicos Karekin II, and the Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia, based in Lebanon and led by Catholicos Aram I.

During the liturgy, the church will read "Martyrs of April," a psalm composed by the late Bishop Zareh Aznavourian, which will be used for the canonization rite, according to Galstanyan.

The bishop added that invitations to heads of sister oriental churches and other churches have been sent.

The genocide had been carried out by the Ottoman government, which targeted minority Armenians who lived in their historic homeland at a territory now part of present-day Turkey. At least 1.5 million Armenians died in the systematic execution, also called as the Armenian Holocaust.

Turkey denies the word genocide is an accurate term for the mass killings of Armenians that began under Ottoman rule in 1915.
COMBINED LIST OF DONATIONS
JULY - DECEMBER 2014

Ronald Krajian $75,000
Kirkjian family $10,500
Triple X Fraternity $5,000
Stephen Philibosian Foundation $5,000
Jim and Debbie Avakian $4,000
Stephen and Marion Afetian $3,100
Mary Swajian $2,700
Martin Juknavorian $2,000
Gary and Judith Funtas $1,400
Bozajian Family $1,000
Robert Armen Melkesian $1,000
Dr. Gary Jandegian $1,000
Anita Yegsigian $1,000
Bagdasarian Family Trust $500
Church of Joy $500
Yahnian Law Corporation $500
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Samvel Hakobyan $350
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Avedes Papazian $200
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Farrah Jenner $200
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Jim and Silva Akoubian $200
Elise Alchian $200
Sarkis Bedrosian $200

EASTER SERVICES SCHEDULE

LENTEN VIGIL SERVICES
EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT
6 p.m.

Palm Sunday, March 29
Morning Service 10:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m.
Opening of the Doors & Service of Antasdan following Badarak

Holy Thursday, April 2
Divine Liturgy (Memorial of the Last Supper) 10:30 a.m.
Washing of the Feet 6:00 p.m.
Complimentary Lenten Dinner by Ladies Society 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Service of Betrayal and Passion of Our Lord 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday, April 3
Service of the Burial of our Lord 6:30 p.m.

Holy Saturday, April 4
Divine Liturgy 6:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 5
Morning Service 10:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 11:00 a.m.
Service of Antasdan (Blessing of the four corners of the world) following Badarak

New Sunday, Merelots, April 12
Morning Service 10:00 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m.
Requiem Service — Following Badarak
ST. GARABED’S FAMILY

IN MEMORY

Marguerite Caroline Chorbajian†
   By Christine Peters & Zareh Chorbajian

Mourad Sarkissian†
   By Mary Sarkissian, Sonia Sarkissian, Sako & Eliza Sarkissian, Arpyur Sarkissian

Arusyak Termendjian †
   By Termendjian Family

Dr. Antreas Mesrobian†
   By Mesrobian Family

The Deceased from the Jumaian & Yousif Families†
   By Hazim & Ibtesam Jumaian

The Deceased from the Markarian, Aghaian, Babaian, Sarkissian, Issa Families and Abel Castillo†
   By Chris, Ani & kids Markarian

   By Vigen & Emma Khatchaturian

UPCOMING

COLLECTIVE PRAYER SERVICE
FOR HEALING

MARCH 24, 7 PM

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

BEHIND THE POST OFFICE OF PALM DESERT
PORTOLA AND EL PASSEO

HEALING FOR PREVENTION OF END OF LIFE
RECENT MASSACRES IN SYRIA AND IRAK
ABORTION HEALING AND PREVENTION
EUTHANASIA UNDERSTANDING AND AVOIDANCE

THE CENTENNIAL OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

APRIL 24, 2015, 6 PM, KIRKJIAN FAMILY HALL

LADIES SOCIETY CALL EN D AR

BAKE SALE
BAKE SALE
BAKE SALE

BAKE SALE
EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5
EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5

FASHION SHOW
SATURDAY, MAY 16
SATURDAY, MAY 16
Dear Members, Parishioners and Friends

Maybe you are wondering what is the small white envelope for.

It is a very old practice in the Armenian Church to provide “Yughakin” especially around the feasts of Christmas and Easter. “Yughakin” in Armenian means “price of oil”. Each local church community would donate money especially earmarked towards the purchase of oil, which in turn would keep the lanterns burning and ultimately the doors of the Church open. At this season of Christ’s Resurrection let us remember and continue the custom of “Yughakin”, so we can keep our “oil-lanterns” always burning and the doors always open at St. Garabed.

DO YOU HAVE FAITH IN GOD?
ARE YOU AN ARMENIAN? ARE YOU A CHRISTIAN?
DO YOU CARE ABOUT YOUR CHURCH?

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BECOME A VOTING MEMBER OF
SAINT GARABED ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF THE DESERT

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