

restoration of our health, of a new chance, new friends, new hopes, in other words the joy of 'new life'. The Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord is a powerful reminder of that hope for New Life which every Christian awaits.

LET THEM EXPRESS THEIR LEARNING IN WORSHIP

It is through worship in Church that we give expression to our beliefs. Give that joy to your students too. The sprouted wheat plants may be offered to adorn the Holy Table during Holy Week. The students may carry their plants in procession to the chancel, where their gifts will be received by the priest. Arrange with your pastor for the most suitable day for your parish. It may be either before the Badarak of Holy Thursday, or before the Burial Service begins on Good Friday, or prior to the JURAKALOOYTZ (Easter Eve) Badarak on Holy Saturday.

SOME FACTS TO KNOW ABOUT LENT

Lent in the Armenian Church begins on the Monday following *Poon Paregentan* or the Sunday of Good Living, not on Wednesday as in the Roman and other Western Churches. This year lent began on Februay 26.

Changes in the physical appearance of the interior of the church, and variations in practice and behavior during *Badarak* reflect the penitential season.

The drawn curtain which is either black or purple is the most obvious change. *Badarak* is celebrated within the closed curtain.

The Gospels book is not elevated during the Havadamk, neither is the Kiss of Peace given.

Communion is received only by the celebrant. Communion is given to church members only for special needs and in cases of illness.

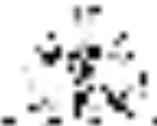
The practices just mentioned are unique in our Church. Our Church fathers have deemed it appropriate to place all the Church members in a state of penance for the duration of Lent. Penitents are not allowed to be present within the Church during *Badarak*, but are asked to remain in the vestibule. The deacon intones this instruction just before the Holy Sacrifice begins. "Let none of

the catechumen, none of little faith and none of the penitents, nor the unclean, draw near unto this divine mystery." This is so, because as penitents they are not allowed to receive any of the Sacraments of the Church, but can be present at the celebration of the Eucharist only from afar, praying for the forgiveness of their sins. Therefore, since it would be impossible to accommodate the whole congregation of penitents in the small vestibule, for practicality the curtain on the altar is drawn separating the penitents from actual participation in the celebration. Therefore, the Kiss of Peace and the reception of Holy Communion takes place only for those who are within the drawn curtain.

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