

# Role Models

## Whom Do We Want To Be Like?

There are many people in our lives we want to be like. We use their example as a model for ourselves in developing our personalities, values, understandings. List five people you admire and want to be like in some way. Say what it is about them you admire.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

People are used as role models for us all the time. We are encouraged to be like our mothers and fathers. We read stories about great national heroes such as George Washington and Abraham Lincoln and wish we could be like them in many ways.

We also have role models in the Church. They are the saints. Saints are

people the Church recognizes for having done something very special. St. Mary, St. Vartan, St. Sahag and St. Mesrob, St. Peter, St. Anne, St. Elizabeth are all special people of the Church. They are our leaders, our heroes, our examples of Christian living. Some of them did not always live Christian lives, but came to know and understand Jesus and wanted to live lives our Lord would like. King Drtad is one of these. Some saints always lived God-loving lives such as St. Mary, the Mother of God. All of us can live saintly lives by living the way Jesus wants us to live.

## How Do You Think God Wants Us to Live?

List five ways you think God wants us to live our lives.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



TEACHERS



PARENTS

CHURCH LEADERS



GRANDPARENTS

FAMILY



WASHINGTON

LINCOLN



PERFORMING ARTS

The Armenian Church celebrates the lives of the saints. The church is divided into two groups: The Church Triumphant and the Church Militant. The Church Triumphant is made up of all the Christians who have died. The Church Militant is made up of all the Christians living now. List names of people under each category. Try to think of five names for each list:

### Triumphant

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

### Militant

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Christians share many of the same saints. Saint Mary is a good example of a saint we all share. The Armenian Church and other churches have many saints that are particular to their own churches. Saint Vartan is an example of a saint of the Armenian Church that is not known or officially recognized by other churches and given the title saint. In this unit, we will learn about some Armenian Church saints and some saints that are universal (belonging to all Christians).



## Celebrating the Lives of the Saints — Saint Days

Just as we celebrate the life of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln every year as a national observance, we celebrate the lives of the saints with special holy days called saint days. In the Armenian Church Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays are usually saint days. The church calendar reminds us of whose special day it is. We can help to celebrate a saint's day by saying a special prayer for that saint on his or her day. We can read about saints. We can try to be like the saints. For instance, the Armenian Church celebrates the life of St. Vartan on the Thursday before Great Lent every year. On that day we can try to be a Christian "fighter" by fighting against any behavior that would not be God-pleasing.

On a saint day, the services of Vespers and Matins mention the name of the saint and special hymns are sung in memory of the saint. Our churches today do not usually have the daily ser-

vices as they did long ago. Instead, we remember the saints in other ways. Sometimes the priest will mention the names of the saints whose lives are commemorated in the week ahead during his Sunday sermon. Sometimes our church paper tells us whose saint day is celebrated during the week ahead.

One special time and way we celebrate the life of a saint is if we have the name of a saint. Then we can celebrate along with the saint and have a Name Day party on the saint day!

## Saints as Intercessors

Sometimes when we have something to say it is easier or better to say it with the help of a friend. When we worship God in church, we worship with the saints. We ask them to praise God with us or ask God for something on our behalf. Look at these examples of when we ask the saints to join with us in our worship:

Of our leaders and first enlighteners, the holy apostles Thaddeus and Bartholomew, and of Gregory the Enlightener, of Aristakes, Vertanes, Houssig, Gregory, Nersess, Sahag, Daniel and Khad, of Mesrop the doctor and of Gregory of Narek, Nersess of Cla, John of Vorodni, Gregory and Moses of Datev, and of the Gregorians and the Nersesians, and of all the pastors and chief-pastors of Armenians, to be aware of in this holy sacrifice we ask the Lord.

Be aware, Lord, and have mercy.

Of the holy anchorites, the virtuous and God-instructed monks, Paul, Anthony, Paulus, Macarius, Onophrius, the abbot Mark, Serapion, Nilus, Arsenius, Evagrius, Barsumas, of the Johannesians and the Simeonians, of the Oskians and the Sukiasians, and of all the holy fathers and of their disciples throughout the world, to be aware of this holy sacrifice we beseech the Lord.

Be aware, Lord, and have mercy.

Of the Christian kings, the saints Abgar, Constantine, Drtad, and of Theodosius, and of all holy and pious kings and God-fearing princes, to be mindful in this holy sacrifice we beseech the Lord.

Be mindful, Lord, and have mercy.

Asking a saint to speak to God for us or with us is asking a saint to be our intercessor. We can ask by ourselves. God will listen to us. But when we ask with each other and with the saints, our combined voices are like a beautiful song with lots of parts instead of just a simple melody.

Having a saint as an intercessor is not hard to do. You can pray like this, "Saint John, you lived a long life and always served God. Help me pray for my grandfather who is an old man who also loves God. Lord, keep my grandfather well. Give him good health and keep his mind alert. Amen."





## HOMEWORK:

### A Saint Report

Learning about the saints can be lots of fun. Not only will you read interesting stories, but you will also learn how you can live a Christian life. Read about saints. Pick one that you find especially interesting and write a report about him or her. Here is a list of things you should or could include in your report:

#### **Saints Report Outline**

1. Cover of Report
  - Name of Saint
  - Birth and death dates, if known
  - Picture, if possible
  - Colorful, attractive and neat
2. Report
  - Biography of the saint
  - Ways you can try to be like this saint
  - Intercessory prayer for the help of this saint
  - Universal or Armenian only
  - Location of stained glass window of this saint, if your church has one
  - Symbols connected with this saint if any

Resources you may use:

*Saints for Children from the Tradition of the Armenian Church*

*Saints and Sacraments*

Encyclopedia

Books on saints from other church publications; check with your teacher to see if material is consistent with the teachings of the Armenian Church.

# Unit V: Special People of the Church \_\_\_\_\_

## Session 1—Role Models

### Key Concepts

1. The saints serve as examples of Christian life.
2. The Armenian Church celebrates the lives of the saints through saint day celebrations.
3. The Armenian Church decorates its buildings with pictures of saints to remind us of their sacrifices on our behalf as well as to remind us that the saints, as part of the Church Triumphant, serve as intercessors for us.
4. The Armenian Church shares many saints with the general Christian Church and has many saints unique to its own experience.

### Objectives

Students will

1. Define saint.
2. List saintly qualities.
3. Identify the terms, Church Triumphant and Church Militant, and give examples of each.

### Materials Needed

- Oratzooytz
- Diocesan calendar
- Books on saints

### Vocabulary

Militant, Triumphant, Intercessor (Զինուորեալ, Յաղթական, Միջնորդ)

### Procedure

1. Welcome students and briefly check homework. Start class with a prayer. (5 min.)
2. Announce that today we start a new unit about saints and other special people of the Armenian Church. Ask for a definition of a saint and/or qualities of a person which would make him saintly. Have students give the names of any saints they know and tell about them briefly. (5 min.)
3. Look at page 91 of the student text and identify the people shown. Have the children read through the first section, "Whom Do We Want to Be Like?", and fill in the spaces as directed. Discuss answers. Do the same with "How do You Think God wants us to live?" (10 min.)
4. Read together "Celebrating the Lives of Saints—Saint Days." (You may have to explain how the church has many services throughout the day. This is only done in monasteries, and the priests pray on behalf of us all. Some of the services are done in our

churches on special occasions. Many churches precede Divine Liturgy with Morning Service. Services of the church can be found in the Book of Hours.) You may want to have students look up the name of the saint they were named for on the calendar or an *Oratzooytz* and make note of when they can celebrate their name day. Students without saints' names can "adopt" a saint to celebrate. (15 min.)

5. Read and discuss "Saints as Intercessors." Be sure the children know what the term intercessor means; review definitions. (15 min.)
6. Go over the homework assignment which serves also as Unit Project. Have students look through books about saints and pick the one they wish to report on. Go over what is to be included in the report and the optional material. (10 min.)

End class with a prayer.

### Extending the Lesson

1. Read the information on "What Is a Saint?" and on celebrating name days from *Saints for Children: From the Tradition of the Armenian Church*. Discuss both.
2. If your church has stained glass windows of saints, have the children attend church and note which saints are depicted.
3. Practice writing or saying intercessory prayers.
4. Talk about well-known saints that are not saints in the Armenian Church, such as Francis of Assisi, Joan of Arc, etc.
5. Compare the way the Roman Catholic Church canonizes a saint to the Armenian Church's practice. This will need researching on your part ahead of time.

## Session 2—Sts. Vartan and Ghevont

### Key Concepts

1. St. Vartan Mamigonian and St. Ghevont Yeretz and their comrades kept the Armenian Church from extinction by their sacrifice on the battlefield.
2. The Armenian Church still faces the same challenge to perpetuate the faith of the Armenian people today.

### Objectives

Students will

1. Review the story of Vartanantz through storytelling.
2. Discuss the concerns and actions of the Vartanank to today.