

part by the Northern New Jersey ACYOA chapter. This chapter has only been in existence since early 1982, but is thriving with activities and members and constantly seeking new ways to help the Armenian Church. Recently this chapter donated \$750 to the St. Nersess Seminary and also spent two days at St. Nersess, with its members giving their time and energy to paint and repair one of the rooms at the Seminary.

Lori Aslanian is the chairman of this active chapter and Douglas Tashjian, presently a member of the executive board, is the person responsible for the founding of the chapter. Douglas, who served as the first chairman, explained the gift of the chapter for the publishing of the new DRE book. "Our overall objective is to support Armenian spiritual and cultural causes. Activities like the work at the Seminary and the donations our chapter has made fit into this purpose," says Douglas. "We hope that more Armenian young people will get into the habit of doing these things," he concluded.

The new book is in paperback form and can be purchased for \$2 from the Diocesan Bookstore, 630 Second Ave., New York N.Y. 10016.

Two other books being released by the DRE and Published by St. Vartan Press are "Sacraments: The Symbol of Our Faith," and "Saints: from the Tradition of the Armenian Church." That latter book is an Armenian translation of the English version which was published earlier this year.

## "Day By Day"

A recent issue of the BEMA contained articles about several aspects of lay ministry. Mentioned particularly were those working with the sick, shut-ins, and the elderly, ministering to the disabled, and being a listener. There are other ways to fulfill the Lord's command to spread the Gospel, including teaching in the Church School, altar service, serving in parish organizations, working with youth, to name a few. Armed with a strong desire to serve Our Lord, these individuals in lay ministry utilize their abilities and talents to promote the Kingdom.

In a like manner, the effort to produce a monthly newsletter for Armenian Christians might be classified as a form of lay ministry. The newsletter, DAY BY DAY, was born out of the desire of Barbara Hovsepian and Louise Kalemkerian to communicate the faith to Armenian Church families. Patterning their efforts upon the religious newsletters available to Catholics and Protestants, they embarked on the publication of *DAY BY DAY A Newsletter for Armenian Church Families* over four years ago.

Articles offer practical suggestions for applying the faith in the home, information and background on the Church, and Bible study. Strictly a "kitchen table" operation, the newsletter tries to speak to the needs of the Armenian family. It is particularly addressed to those with scanty Armenian Church background. It strives to provide the information parents need to more fully appreciate their Armenian Church and to make the Church more a part of daily family life.

Mrs. Kalemkerian, a graduate of Seabury-Western

Theological Seminary, also holds a degree in education. She is currently Director of Religious Education at St. Thomas Church in Tenafly, New Jersey. Mrs. Kalemkerian has also served as executive secretary to the Council for Religious Education of the Diocese. Mrs. Hovsepian, an educator as well, is currently teaching Sunday School at St. Leon Church, in Fair Lawn, New Jersey. She has served on the DRE and has been Sunday School superintendent at St. Mary, Livingston, and St. Leon. Mr. Joseph Kalemkerian provides all the artistic work for the newsletter.

In addition to readers in the Armenian Church community, DAY BY DAY's reach has extended to France, the Netherlands, England, Lebanon, and Israel. Its columns on the Divine Liturgy have been translated into French and compiled for use in the Church in France. The editors' light style and approach to otherwise heavy subject matter make enjoyable as well as informative reading. Its one-page format is appreciated for its brevity in a world of super-busy people. DAY BY DAY is approved for use in the Sunday Schools of the Diocese. It is subscribed to by 27 churches coast to coast and has many individual subscribers. It is sent free of charge to college students and currently has over 100 students on its mailing list. DAY BY DAY is a non-profit endeavor which supports itself through modest subscription rates and an occasional donation by interested supporters.

# THADDEUS

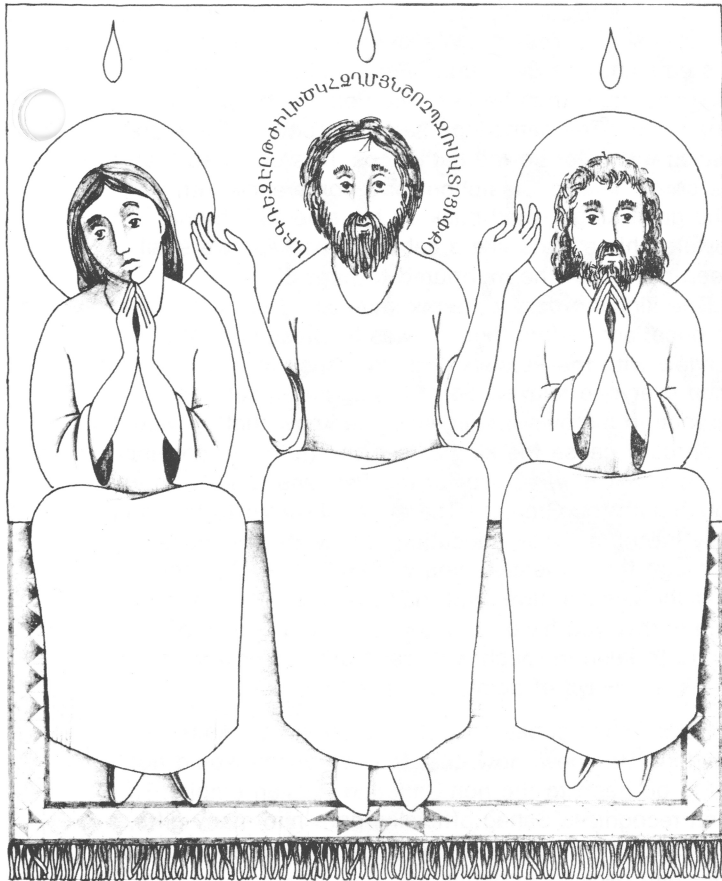
## The Faith Builder

*Perhaps my life's blood is to be poured out like an offering on sacrifices that your faith offers to God. If that is so, I am glad and share my joy with you all. In the same way you too must be glad and share your joy with me. Philippians 2:17-18*

When Jesus started His ministry, He asked four men, Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John, to follow Him first. Then as He went about teaching and preaching, other people wanted to learn from Him. They were called disciples (students). After a while Jesus picked 12 men from the group to be specially taught and trained to carry on His work and teach others. These 12 men were then called Apostles. They were Andrew, Simon Peter, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, another James, Thaddeus (who is also called Jude and Lebbaus), another Simon, and Judas (the man who betrayed Him).

He told them to go and teach others about the Kingdom of Heaven and heal the sick. They did this and then returned to Our Lord to learn more. Jesus taught them until He was arrested. As the soldiers took Him away, the Apostles scattered. Perhaps they were afraid they too would be put in prison.

Later, after the Resurrection, Our Lord appeared to



not. One of these was the King's daughter, Santookht. Thaddeus taught her well and she was a very good student. Thaddeus made her realize that loving and following the teachings of Jesus were more important than being a princess. How pleased Thaddeus must have been to see her love for Jesus grow. But the king was not happy and was afraid of his gods. He had Thaddeus killed hoping that his people would stop believing in Our Lord and following His teachings.

Thaddeus was the first person to build the faith in Armenia and because of this we call him the First Enlightener of Armenia. To honor him, we have given Thaddeus the title of First Catholicos. He is mentioned in the Gospels and wrote a letter (epistle) which uses the name Jude. Not much is written about him, but the result of his work is the Armenian Church which has lasted through the years and is still growing today.

*Are you a faith builder like Saint Thaddeus? Do you like to help others learn about Our Lord? Do you tell your parents, sisters, brothers, and friends what you have learned about Jesus? Then you are following Saint Thaddeus' example and building the Church!*

**Saints for Children: From the Tradition of the Armenian Church.**

\$4.00 Available through the Diocesan Bookstore.

His Apostles and disciples and taught them even more. One day He told them He would leave them, but another Helper, the Holy Spirit, would come and live in them and guide them. Jesus told them that the Holy Spirit was not coming to everybody in the world, just to them. Thaddeus asked Jesus why the Holy Spirit wasn't going to everyone in the world. (You can read this in John 14:22.) Jesus told him that the Holy Spirit would only come to people who loved Him. This was why it was so important for the Apostles to go all over the world and spread the Good News.

On Ascension day, the Apostles watched Jesus go up into heaven. They waited as they had been told to do. Ten days later the Holy Spirit did come. It was like a great wind that blew around and in them. Flames appeared above the heads of the Apostles. Now, with the Holy Spirit in them to help them, they set off to tell others what Jesus had told them. They went to other countries to tell the people that Jesus had gone to heaven to make a place ready for all those who believed in Him and that they would have everlasting life.

The Holy Spirit made the Apostles able to speak in other languages so they could tell everyone the Good News. Thaddeus was able to speak Armenian and went to Armenia to teach the people and others there about Jesus. Not everyone in Armenia was ready to believe in Jesus. King Sanadrook did not like this new religion. He thought his gods would be angry if he let his people follow Jesus. He thought his gods would punish him.

Many people did believe even though the king did

# THE STORY OF SAINT SAHAG

On the holy Friday of the year 378 the people of the city of Val'arshapat had gone to church for that day's evening service. Following the service they sat assembled in the church, praying, and thinking about the death of Jesus. Only whispers would break the general silence occasionally.

"Who is that man sitting near the altar with his head in his hands, mother?" asked a little boy in as low a voice as he could. The mother, too had noticed the man.

"He is Deacon Sahag", she said softly, leaning over. "He is a very learned man. His father's great great grandfather was Saint Gregory the Enlightener."

The boy looked at him once more with sparkles in his eyes.

Deacon Sahag was in deep thought, but suddenly he looked up. Some people who saw him move nudged each other. The famous deacon was looking at something that *they* could not see. In fact, he was having a vision. It was like a dream, only more real:

*The altar was suddenly covered with a white linen*