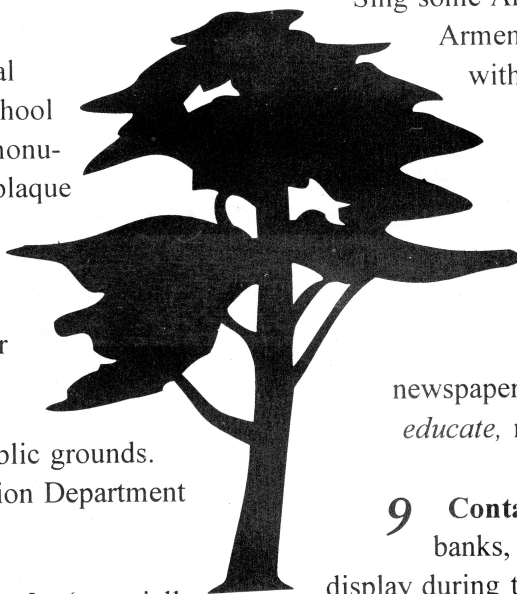


WAYS TO COMMEMORATE ARMENIAN MARTYRS' DAY (April 24)

Each year, we commemorate the tragic events of the 1915 Armenian Genocide in a number of traditional ways: a *hokehankisd* (requiem) service, a *madagh* meal shared after church services, or a formal memorial dinner with guest speakers and program. While all of these are certainly appropriate ways of observing Martyrs' Day, they usually lack the presence of non-Armenians. We need to **inform and educate** the non-Armenian community about the Genocide and toward that end this list of 24 suggestions, prepared by the **ACYOA** and the **Department of Youth Ministry** in 1993 is re-printed here for your convenience.

- 1 **Donate Blood** in memory of the martyrs. Do it as a group. Contact your local American Red Cross chapter or community blood bank. Tell them why you are donating blood. If enough individuals are going to donate, the agency may be willing to bring the equipment to your church.
- 2 **Plant a Tree**, bush or perennial flowers in a public park, on school grounds, or near an important city monument. Ask if you can place a small plaque nearby. Have one made with an appropriate message and donate that also. Contact your city or county Parks and Recreation Department for direction.
- 3 **Clean-Up a Park** or other public grounds. Contact the Parks and Recreation Department for information.
- 4 **Donate Armenian-Subject Books** (especially on the Genocide), maps, subscriptions to journals or periodicals to your local library (public, school or college). Contact the St. Vartan Gift and Book Shop at the Diocese for suggestions. Before ordering, check to see what the library already has to avoid duplication. Label each book inside the front cover indicating that it has been donated in memory of the martyrs.
- 5 **Sponsor a Marathon** and donate the proceeds to a charitable cause. Since the purpose is to educate the non-Armenian community about the Genocide, the cause may be a non-Armenian one. This can be a walking, dancing, running, biking, volleyball, tavloo or almost anything marathon. Involve your whole parish. It can be a great community get-together.
- 6 **Volunteer for a Day** or for several days at a children's hospital. Contact the Volunteer Department to make arrangements.
- 7 **Visit a Local Nursing Home.** Bring small gifts. Sing some Armenian songs, present some Armenian dances. Spend time talking with residents. Announce why you are doing this. Some of the residents may even be old enough to remember hearing about the Genocide.
- 8 **Write "Letters to the Editor"** of your local newspaper. *Your purpose is to inform and to educate, not to express hatred or revenge.*
- 9 **Contact Local Museums**, libraries, banks, etc. and ask if you can set up a display during the week of April 24. Ask someone with artistic ability to help you prepare the display. It should be attractive and informative. The display can include books, maps, charts, pictures, etc.
- 10 **Donate Food** or clothing through a local agency which is aiding a nation or community that has suffered a disaster.
- 11 **Arrange for an Interview** about the Genocide with a local or school newspaper. Do your research and be *well-prepared*.
- 12 **Arrange for an Interview** on a local radio station.



- 13** **Arrange for an Interview** on a local cable TV station.
- 14** **Organize an Ecumenical Service** and fellowship at your church under your parish priest's supervision. Invite the pastors and congregations of your community. Ask your parish priest if one of your youth can give a message during the service. Serve refreshments after the service and have a display set up in the church hall.
- 15** **Invite Youth from other Churches** in your community to have a discussion, bible-study, and fellowship at your church. Inform and educate them about the Genocide.
- 16** **Send a Book About the Genocide** with a cover letter to each of the churches in your community for the pastor's or church's library.
- 17** **Feed the Hungry.** Volunteer at a local soup kitchen.
- 18** **Volunteer to Serve for a Day** or several days with Meals-on-Wheels.
- 19** **Fast on April 24.** Abstain from a meal or two on that day and donate the approximate cost of those meals to a worthy cause.
- 20** **Ask for Assembly Time at Your School.** Engage a teacher-friend to help you get permission and plan the program. *The purpose, as always, is to inform and to educate.*
- 21** **Write a Required Essay** or paper on the subject of the Genocide in your history or social studies class, when it is appropriate to what is being studied.
- 22** **Give an Oral Presentation on the Genocide** to one of your classes.
- 23** **Inquire About Ways that You Can Study,** write a paper or make a presentation about the Genocide for a club or organization that you belong to (e.g., Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts).
- 24** **Hold an Outdoor Prayer Vigil** in a public place. No shouting, banner or placard waving! Just prayer, Scripture reading, reflection and silence.

GETTING A TODDLER TO LISTEN

- **Look the child in the eye.** Bend to his/her level, if necessary.
- **Use a pleasant voice.** Avoid using a high-pitched tone. High-pitched tones tell a toddler you're ready to play. When you want to be taken seriously, lower the pitch of your voice.
- **Use the fewest words possible.** Yet still be polite. For example, say, "Please put the toy down" or "Sit on the chair, please."
- **Check for understanding.** Ask the child to repeat your instructions so you know the expected behavior is understood.
- **Allow time for the toddler to respond.** Gently pick up the child and remove him/her from the situation if you don't get a response from your verbal instruction. After removing him/her from the situation, lovingly explain that he/she was moved because he/she didn't follow instructions.
- **Be a good listener.** Remember that toddlers learn best from modeling, so strive to make your nursery a place where children are listened to attentively and responded to promptly.

