

ARCHPRIEST FR. KEGHARD BABOGLIAN

(1966-1969) (1924-2010)

Archpriest Fr. Keghard Baboghlian (baptismal name Sarkis) was born on April 25, 1924, in Aleppo, Syria, the son of genocide survivors Hovhanness Baboghlian and Rahel Hallajian. Soon after birth, they moved to the Arab-Punar village, where he graduated Khrimian local primary school, then moved back to Aleppo to continue his education in the Mekhitarists Secondary School.

In 1939 he became a member of H.M.E.M. Scout, participating in national and athletic events. Being Vice Group Leader of the Scouts, he was responsible for the scouts and marching band, organizing members for juvenile and youth groups' sports activities. He was a member of Hamazkayin Educational and Cultural Association and since his parents were natives of Urfa, he was also the administrative member of Urfa Youth Associations.

In 1963, he was admitted to the Theological Seminary of the Holy See of Cilicia in Antelias, Lebanon, and after graduating in 1964, he was sent to Athens, Greece, to become a priest. In August 9, 1964, he was ordained a priest in Soorp Garabed Armenian Apostolic Church in Turghuti (Athens) by Archbishop Karekin Sarkissian, Prelate of the Greece, and started serving the Armenian Church in Turghuti and Garea-Kaisariani area. (Archbishop Sarkissian later became the Catholicos of the Holy See of Cilicia and Catholicos of all Armenians in Etchmiadzin.)

In October of 1966, by the request of the Catholicossate, he and his family moved to the United States to serve the Soorp Khatch Church of Washington Metropolitan Area. On November of 1969, he moved back to Athens, to take over his prior parish, until he retired on September 1996.

He was an active member of various committees of the Prelacy. At the same time being the Prelacy Representative, he occupied the office of the Vicar. On the election and consecration of Karekin II, Catholicos of the Holy See of Cilicia, on May 22, 1977, he was representing the Prelate of Greece.

He has been primal of the committees for the building Soorp Khatch Church Hall (1967), Garea's Armenian Hall and S. Garabed Church building (1982) in Turghuti (Neo Kosmos, Athens).

In November 2, 1976, His Holiness Khoren I, Catholicos of the Holy See of Cilicia, gave him the right to bear lanchakhach (Pectoral cross) and in April 4, 1981, Catholicos Khoren I and co-adjutor Karekin II granted him the right to bear Dsaghgya Pilon (Flowered mantle). And later he was given the title of Archpriest.

Rev. Archpriest Keghard Baboghlian died at the age of 85 in Greece, after serving the Armenian Apostolic Church and the Armenian nation for 46 years.

His memory shall be blessed.