

REV. FR. SARKIS AKTAVOUKIAN

(2004 - ...) (1951 - ...)

Son of Archpriest Rev. Fr. Ghevont and Yn. Baydzar Aktavoukian, was born in Aleppo, Syria, in 1951, with the baptismal name of Avedis.

He receives his primary school education at Sahagian Elementary School and the intermediate and the secondary education at the Karen Jeppe Jemaran graduating in 1970. Following graduation, he teaches four years at the Sahagian School until 1974 his acceptance at the Polytechnic Institute of Yerevan, Armenia, where he receives his Master's degree in Civil Engineering, specializing in Highways and bridges.

He works one year as a civil engineer and then moves to Kuwait in 1983, where he holds first, the positions of the vice principal and then the principal of the Armenian School of Kuwait, a span of sixteen years.

In 1999, at the end of his educational career as the principal of the Armenian School he receives the Mesrob Mashtots award and an appreciation encyclical from His Holiness Aram I Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia.

Later, he attends the Armenian Theological Seminary of the Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia, and in October 1999, was ordained to the rank priesthood by His Eminence Archbishop Zareh Aznavorian and renamed Father Sarkis.

Following his ordination, Der Sarkis served both the St. Gregory the Illuminator Cathedral in Antelias and St. Neshan Mother Church of Beirut, Lebanon until his transfer to the Eastern Prelacy of United States.

In 1964, years prior his ordination to the priesthood Der Sarkis received the four minor clerical orders of an acolyte, *tubir* from His Eminence Archbishop Ghevont Chebeyan, Prelate of Aleppo. In 1972, the right to bear a stole, *ouraragir* by His Holiness Khoren I Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia. In 1995, His Eminence Bishop Oshagan Choloyan, Prelate of Kuwait and the Persian Gulf Countries (now Archbishop Oshagan, Prelate of the Eastern U.S.A.) ordained him to the rank of deacon.

In late 2000, Der Sarkis serves as assistant pastor of St. Stephen's Armenian Apostolic Church in Watertown, Massachusetts and in January 2001, he becomes the pastor of Holy Trinity Armenian Church in Worcester, Massachusetts.

In August 2004, Der Hayr was assigned to Soorp Khatch Armenian Apostolic Church in Bethesda, Maryland, serving the Greater Washington D.C. Armenian Community.

He is married to the former Maggie Keleshian and they have two children, Sarkis and Shoghag.

