

## ARCHPRIEST FR. DICKRAN KHOYAN

Dickran Khoyan was born in 1895 in Trebizond to Archpriest Vahan Khoyan and Hamaspure G. Dagosian. Shortly after his birth, the family moved to Constantinople where he grew up, attended Getronagan College, and became an active participant in community events and organizations. He sang first tenor in the 300 member Gomidas Vartabed Choir, acted in the Zarifian Theater Group and taught at the Berberian College.

Rev. Khoyan will be most remembered as one of the founding members of the Homenetmen—the great Armenian Boy Scout movement and Youth Physical Education organization for Armenians that was organized in Constantinople in 1918. He worked tirelessly and successfully organized the scout movement in the very city that three years earlier had arrested the top Armenian intelligentsia prior to the massive deportations and massacres of 1915. Dickran Khoyan was invited to Yerevan where he met with Vahan Chiraz and others to start a scout movement in Armenia. Today, the organization has grown to 17,000 members with regions and chapters on all five continents including Yerevan, Armenia.

He served in the Turkish army, attained the rank of Captain, and eventually moved to the United States in 1921. He attended Springfield College in Massachusetts, receiving a Master's degree in Physical Education in 1926. He also played center forward on the varsity soccer team at Springfield College.

In 1932, in Philadelphia, he married Sirarpi Isbetcherian Beguian and the couple was blessed with two daughters and one son. The family lived for a time in Miami, Florida, where he was one of the founders of the St. John Armenian Apostolic Church and served as the first Choir Director. During his time in Miami, he was also very active in the Armenian Citizen's Club of Miami and numerous community activities.

In 1955, following in the footsteps of his father, he was ordained a priest by Archbishop Mampre Kalfayan at Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Church in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania. With the acceptance of a new life and new challenges, he served in Chicago and various other communities before becoming the first pastor of St. Stephen's Armenian Church in Watertown, Massachusetts and later of the Soorp Khatch Armenian Church in Bethesda, Maryland.

Following his retirement, he continued to serve the Armenian Church in various capacities. He enjoyed attending the Homenetmen Olympics especially the regional and international scouting and athletic events. In 1988, while celebrating their 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Rev. Khoyan was honored with the Regional Gold Medal (Shekanishan) for being one of the founders of the Homenetmen at the Navasartian Games in Los Angeles.

Just one week before his death, he attended an Armenia Relief Society function in Washington, where he met and blessed a group of Armenians injured in the earthquake in Armenia. Throughout his life, he supported many organizations and was a former

member of the ARF, the AGBU, the Armenian Students' Association, the Vartanantz Asbeds, to name a few.

Der Khoyan passed away on January 23, 1990, in the Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, DC. His ministry as a priest extended over a period of 35 years. Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian presided over the Last Unction ceremonies during the Badarak.