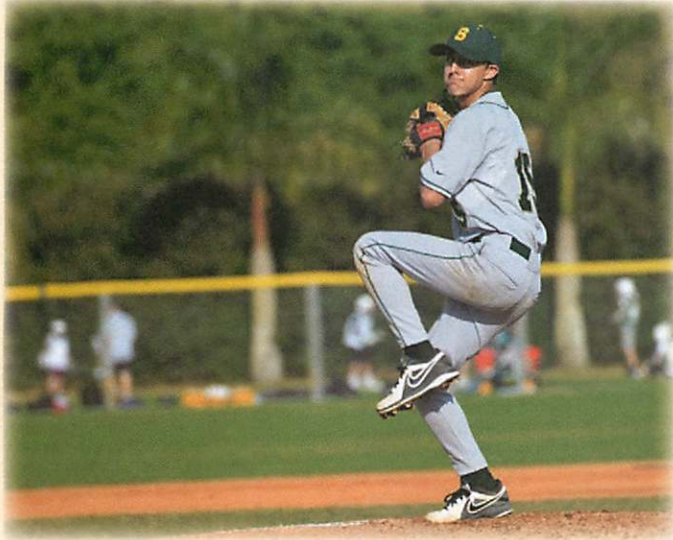


God's Shining Light

A Great Team!

Do you like team or group activities? What is your favorite... football, baseball, soccer, debate team, chorus, the church youth group, or? Whether you play on a team or just enjoy watching, you will surely agree that no matter how great each player is it takes teamwork to reach the top.



A good team has talented players. A great team has players who work together so well that they respond automatically. Not everyone on a baseball team has the same ability...some are great hitters, some catchers, others pitch, some play outfield better than others –the teams that make the play-offs are those who have a diverse combination of all the different abilities. In today's Scripture reading, St Paul is challenging the Romans to work together to be a great team. While it is admirable to strive to be your personal best it is most beneficial when everyone works together toward a common goal.

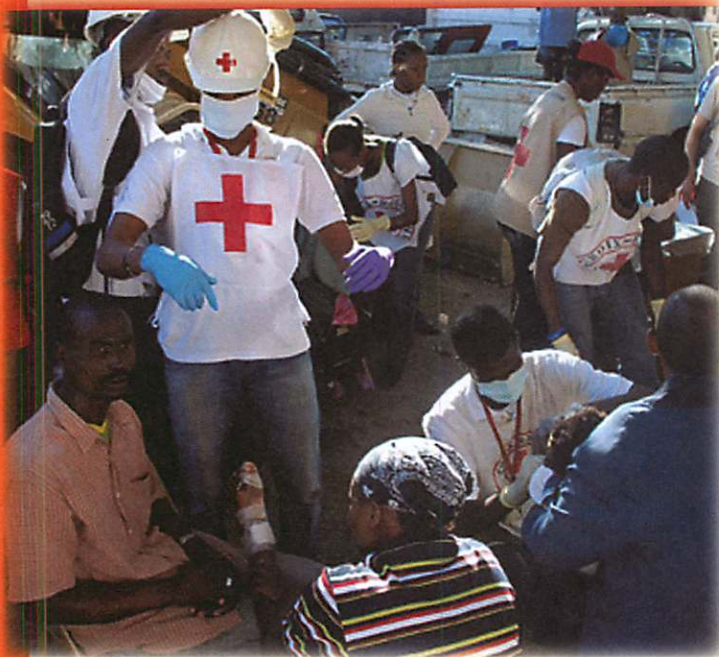
Romans 12: 1-8



Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. 3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. 4 For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Spiritual Gifts in Action

Not too long ago the country of Haiti was rocked by a terrible earthquake. Hour after hour the news media reported on the efforts of people there to offer humanitarian assistance to the thousands of earthquake victims. The first thing that strikes you at a time like this is the overwhelming devastation and loss of life. But as you watch the valiant efforts of the rescue workers, all from different walks of life and all possessing different talents and gifts, you will notice a display of teamwork that makes miracles happen—that is precisely God's intention.



God gives to everyone what they need to become the best person that they can be! Think about becoming the best person that you can be. What does it take? Think about it in terms of any great athlete, writer, singer, dancer, scientist, or teacher. What magic do they have that helped them become so good at what they do? There is no trick or magic involved; it takes persistent and hard work and often a little help from friends. Another key is using our gifts in service to God—in this way we become his hands to help those in need...his mouth to tell others the good news... his feet to lead the way...truly his body! There's an awesome song that says it all...It's entitled **"We Are Many Parts."**



"We are Many Parts"

*Refrain: We are many parts, we are all one body
And the gifts we have we are given to share,
May the spirit of love, make us one indeed.
One, the love that we share;
One our hope in despair
One, the cross that we bear*

God of all, we look to you, would be your servants true, let us be your love to all the world.

Refrain

So my pain is pain for you, in your joy is my joy too,
all is brought together in the Lord!

Refrain

All you seekers great and small, seek the greatest gift of all;
if you love then you will know the Lord!



Speaking of “parts,” these words are exchanged when we receive mahs at the end of Badarak:

Mahs yev pazbeen yegheetsee kez ee Soorp Badarakes

Մաս եւ բաժին եղիցի քեզ ի սուրբ Պատարագէս

May this be to you a share (part) and portion of the Holy Sacrifice.

Pahjeen eem Asdvadz haveedyan.

Բաժին իմ Աստուած յաւիտեան

God is my portion forever.

Practice Makes Perfect

As we have learned in lessons past, there are many different types of prayer—but true prayer, which is heartfelt conversation with our Creator, requires energy, focus and practice. Today we will talk specifically about a certain type of prayer or chant called a “litany,” which is a series of prayer petitions.



† 1: That we may pass this hour and the day before us in peace and in faith, let us ask of the Lord.

† All: Grant it, Lord. *Shnorhya Der!*

† 2: For the angel of peace to guard our souls, let us ask of the Lord.

† All: Grant it, Lord. *Shnorhya Der!*

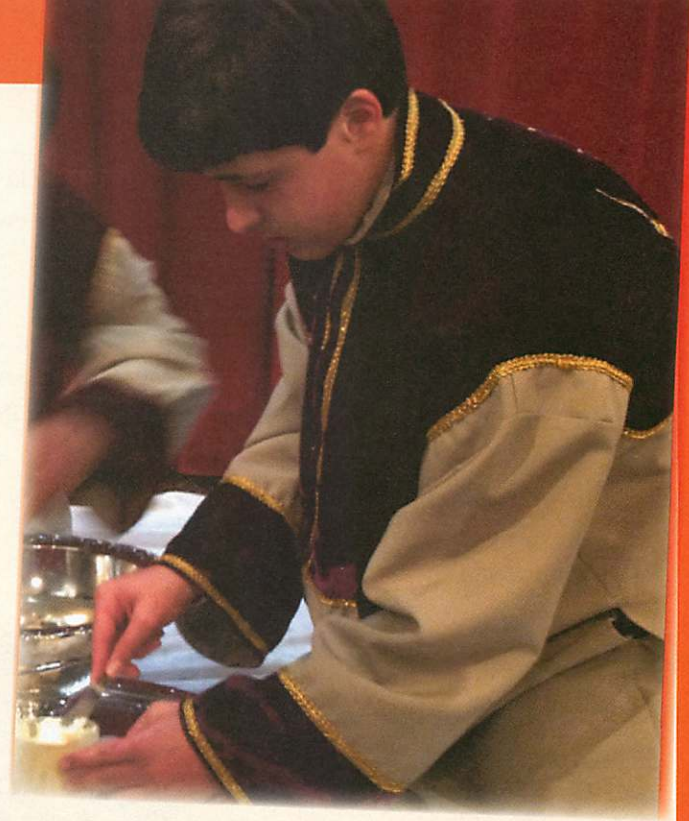
† 3: For his forgiveness of our wrongdoings, let us ask of the Lord.

† All: Grant it, Lord. *Shnorhya Der!*

† 4: For the great and mighty power of the Cross to help our souls, let us ask of the Lord.

† All: Grant it, Lord. *Shnorhya Der!*

from the Armenian Divine Liturgy



A “Litany” is... a prayer consisting of a series of invocations and supplications by the leader with alternate responses by the congregation



Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

– 2 Thessalonians 5:16–18



Our Armenian Way

HYE EM YES!

Generations of Gifts

For thousands of years, Armenians have been sharing their God-given talents in their local and national communities and in the world.

Which of the following questions are true and which are false?

1. Yerevan is as old as Babylon, and is fifty years older than Rome.
2. In 1968, the city of Yerevan marked its 2750th Anniversary.
3. Linguists agree that the Armenian language holds a very high place among the most accurate means of expressing human thoughts.
4. The Bible was the first book that was translated into the Armenian language in the 5th century.
5. Some non-Armenian scholars considered the translation of the Armenian Bible a literary monument and have called it the "Queen of Translations."
6. The 5th century was called "The Golden Age" of Armenia.
7. Armenians invented red ink. They obtained it from a worm called "Vortan Garmeer" which was found in Armenia.



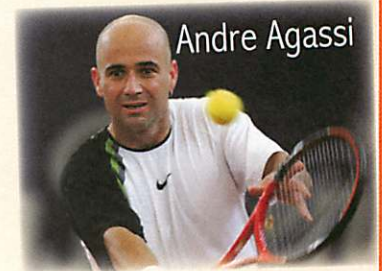
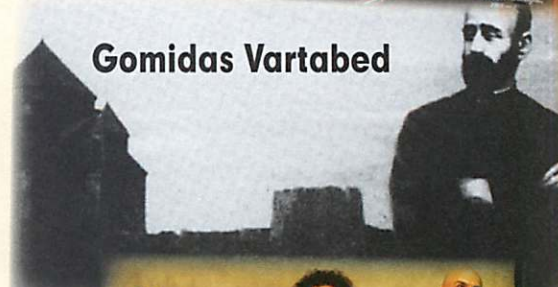
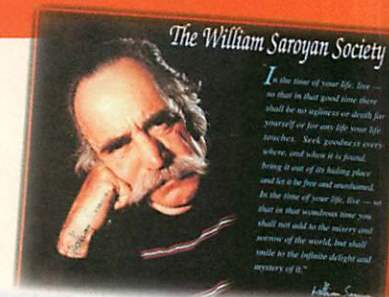
Welcome to the Armenian Hall of Fame Match Game!

How many famous Armenians do you know?

1. Ranked #1 tennis player in the world (1995): ____
2. Creator of "The Chipmunks": Alvin, Simon, and Theodore. ____
3. Won a Pulitzer Prize for the play "The Time of Your Life." ____
4. Famous poet who wrote "The Armenian Church" (is the birthplace of my soul...): ____
5. Called the Father of Armenian history, he wrote a history from the nation's beginnings through the 5th century. ____
6. Inventor/businessman who invented the single-handed faucet, founded Masco. Huge philanthropist during his life, with strong ties to the Armenian General Benevolent Union. ____
7. Invented the MRI diagnosis machine. Magnetic Resonance Imaging provides a detailed view of the inside of the body without the use of X-rays. ____
8. Founded airlines, built world's largest casinos, owned MGM studios and still owns MGM Grand, plus large share of Daimler-Chrysler. He has generously assisted post-earthquake Armenia. ____
9. Producer of the films "Return of the Jedi" and "Raiders of the Lost Ark." ____
10. A legend and a national saint in Armenian history, a musical genius who wrote liturgical music as well as compiling and thereby saving Armenian folk music. ____
11. Popular contemporary heavy rock band. Performed on one track of the Southpark CD, and Ozzfest. ____
12. Catholicos, Patriarch of Constantinople, the author of the world famous "iron ladle" sermon on Armenians' right to self-defense delivered at the Congress of Berlin in 1878. ____

Armenian culture: art, music, celebrities, saints and church leaders...together they create a brilliantly-colored, diverse tapestry that we can all be proud of.

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| a. Raymond Vahan Damadian | e. System of A Down | i. Andre Kirk Agassi |
| b. Howard Kazanjian | f. William Saroyan | j. Khrimian Hayrig |
| c. Gomidas Vartabed | g. Kirk Kerkorian | k. Alex Manoogian |
| d. Ross Bagdasarian | h. Vahan Tekeyan | l. Movses Khorenatsi |



What Are My Gifts?

Spiritual Gift / Talents Inventory

Check the boxes that you feel apply to you now.
Check the gifts that you would like to apply to you.

- I enjoy using my artistic talents to make things that bring glory to God.
- When I participate in activities that serve the Lord I really feel alive.
- I firmly believe that God can make miracles happen.
- Sometimes, I express my love for God by writing poems, songs, prayers, or devotionals.
- When I am with someone who is discouraged, I try to lift up their spirit.
- I often feel compassion for kids in my school that have physical or mental challenges.
- I feel confident that when I am old enough I will continue to serve my church community.
- I think it is important to notice and care for people in need who are near us.



Closing prayer experience

A Litany of Thanksgiving

Leader: Let's thank God for giving us the precious gift of faith.

All: *We thank you for your many gifts, O Lord.*

Leader: Let us thank God for our Mother Church where we gather as his children.

All: *We thank you for your many gifts, O Lord.*

Leader: Let us thank God for our ancestors who gave their all for the faith.

All: *We thank you for your many gifts, O Lord.*

Leader: Let us thank God for our bishops, priests and deacons and all those who serve in our Christian community and for our Christian identity through which all gifts flourish.

All: *We thank you for your many gifts, O Lord.*

Leader: Let us thank him for the gifts of our unity and our diversity.

All: *We thank you for your many gifts, O Lord.*

Leader: Thank you God especially for my special talent/gift...(each person responds).

All: *Amen.*