

For Immediate Release

TCA ARSHAG DICKRANIAN ARMENIAN SCHOOL
1200 CAHUENGA BLVD. LOS ANGELES, CA 90038

Archbishop Hovnan Derderian Visits TCA Arshag Dickranian School

Los Angeles, October 4, 2010 - His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church, gave a two hour long visit to TCA Arshag Dickranian School on Friday October 1, 2010, to meet with and give his message to the upper grade students. The Primate was accompanied by the Rev. Archpriest Fr. Manoug Markarian, Parish Priest of St. John Armenian Church, and Rev. Fr. Avedis Abovian, Youth Director of the Western Diocese.

The students had already gathered at the Walter and Laurel Karabian Hall and taken their seats when the guests arrived to meet with them, after which Principal Vartkes Kourouyan introduced them explaining the purpose of their visit. He then invited His Eminence to address the students.

Archbishop Derderian first talked about the importance of Christian Education, calling on the students to attend church and making the teachings of the Armenian Church an essential part of their lives, learning and growth. During his interactive conversation he touched upon the kind of problems facing adolescents these days and emphasized on the role of the church in helping those who seek guidance. "Sometimes it is hard to solve our problems on our own," he said, "the church is here for you, please don't hesitate to call on us."



From left to right: Chairman Mr. George Mandossian, Rev. Fr. Avedis Abovian, His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Rev. Archpriest Fr. Manoug Markarian and Principal Vartkes Kourouyan

Fr. Manoug and Fr. Avedis then took turns to greet the students, expressing their thoughts as to how the church may help in dealing with the worldly challenges nowadays facing the youth, each giving examples from their personal experiences.

At the end, school board chairman Mr. George Mandossian addressed the students, urging them to appreciate the messages and advice given by the visiting clergy and apply them as well. "I am much older than all of you and I learned a lot from these discussions," he said.



Archbishop Hovnan Derderian asking students questions about their issues

The students then split into three discussion groups gathering around Archbishop Derderian, Father Manoug and Father Avedis to express their personal thoughts and discuss issues in more detail.



Archbishop Hovnan Derderian surrounded by a group of students from the seminar

Prior to concluding the session the Primate invited the students to the Diocesan Headquarters (The Dickranian Complex) to visit the new cathedral and its adjoining facilities.

Located at 1200 North Cahuenga Blvd., Los Angeles, the TCA Arshag Dickranian Armenian School is a federally tax exempt, Pre-K to 12th grade private educational institution. The school's web site is www.dickranianschool.org.

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