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Rev. Fr. Shnork Souin, Pastor



APPEAL FOR ST. ASTVATSADZIN MONESTAER IN AKHTALA ARMENIA

♥ HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS - SERVICE PROJECT JUNE 2020 – GOAL \$8,000 ♥

Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church Pilgrimage to Armenia and Service Project

As in other years, the pilgrimage to Armenia which I am leading in June , 2020, which you are invited to participate in, includes a service project. This time around, the service project not only literally hits HOME but is one that comes from the HEART!

As you may know, after many years of struggling with Heart Failure and finally being hospitalized and going through a very life and death battle to finally receive the blessings of God in the gift of a new heart, I have resumed my life with vigor and revitalized in my vacation and spirit of service to almighty God.

I never throughout the process doubted God or his magnificent will, but only thanked and praised him and see my harrowing experience as a gift that truly made me a better and more faithful person. The culmination of the experience was in the form of a MIRACLE. It is this miracle that inspired the service project.

On October 8, 2018, I was on a very shorted “stay”cation, as I was unable to travel before transplantation, with Yn. Julie in Westerly Rhode Island. We checked into the hotel on Saturday, came home for the Divine Liturgy on Sunday then returned where we would relax together after long hospital stays, and rehabilitation.



After breakfast on Monday morning we decided we’d

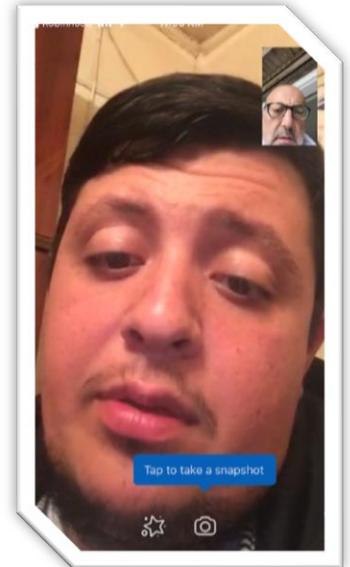
relax a while, read then go for a walk on the beach before lunch. Before our walk, Yn. Said she wanted to practice some music for one of the many choral groups she sings with and so I sat and as I had nothing to do, checked emails, messages and social media updates. On Facebook, I saw that a young priest in Armenia who I never met but followed was on-line. I have been extraordinarily impressed by this young priest and have always thought of him as a living saint and miracle worker. I decided, seeing him on-line to chat him up thinking we might speak for a few moments.

Fr. Hetum and I spoke 1 whole hour! After the long conversation with this “brother in Christ” I truly felt as if I’d known him for 25 years! At the conclusion of our conversation he said, “Der Hayr Jan, I have to go into the church now for Vespers but be assured that we will not leave until each of us have gone to our knees and demanded that the heavenly and victorious saints intercede on your behalf and

demand that the Lord of the Church, healer of souls and bodies, grant you a new and perfect heart immediately.

I was so humbled by his care, concern and faith. After hanging up I thanked God for this new friend and brother. Getting back form lunch an hour and a half later, arriving back to our room, I received a call! The call! Exactly at the time that Fr. Hetum and the faithful in Akhtala Armenia would have concluded their prayers, the lifting up of incense and their appeals for my healing through the intercession of the saints, I received a call from Dr. Amanda Vest who said in her perfectly lovely British accent and comforting voice, “Fr. Souin, I hope you are well and that you are very nearby. It is very likely we have a a match and that you could prepare to come to Boston today to receive a new and perfect heart!!

I will tell this story in greater detail in the near future but suffice to say, that I am so thankful to God and to Fr. Hetum for his love and faith for praying for me, which God heard and answered immediately. For this reason, I decided that I need to make it a goal to help him purchase a home for his church, called Holy Mother of God Monastery or Surp Astvatsadsin, an 11th century monastery. Fr. Hetum has no house, nor does the church community have a rectory. He is not paid but



lives off “gifts” and community support but himself has to pay rent for the home he is living in with his wonderful young Yeretskin and two beautiful young children.

This house is very solid, built by a European firm, a block from the Monastery and is now for sale. The project therefore is to purchase this house for the monastery so that Fr. Hetum and his family, and any future pastor, will always have a place to live as it will be in the name of the Monastery and thus the Diocese.

Our pilgrimage will include a trip to Akhtala a beautiful mountainous region of northern Armenia where we will provide some important renovations and service efforts culminating with a HOME BLESSING which I will conduct, place a plaque in the home in memory of the Gift of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob parish and offer the Divine Liturgy and Madagh of thanksgiving plus visitation and support for the children of the village!

I want to ask you to please support this effort in every way that you can, with any donation possible. The cost of the house is \$8,000 total (things are surprisingly very inexpensive in Armenia and more so in these remote areas). My sister already, so moved by Der Hayr’s powerful and faithful prayer, to which God immediately responded, has donated the first \$500 and my family has matched it with a pledge of \$500, which means that I must raise another \$7,000. Please seek in your heart as to how you might support me and the faithful of St.

Mary Mother of God Church. All donations will be tax deductible and will be officially acknowledged by the Diocese of Gukarats (TEM), their primate, Archbishop Sebu Chouljian, who I have personally known and even worked with some 25 years ago as a newly ordained priest! Thank you for your kindness, and support both morally and financially.

May God bless you, Fr. Hetum and the Tarverdyan family and grant consolation and the comfort of the Holy Spirit for my heart donor and his bereaved family.

With sincere love, thanksgiving and blessings

Fr. Shnorh Souin, Pastor

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Yes, Fr. Shnorh,

Recognizing this great miracle and the humble service and faith of Fr. Hetum Tarverdyan, I am happy to make a gift of \$1000 , \$500 , \$250 , \$100 , \$50 other \$ _____ toward the service project for Akhtala and St. Mary Mother of God Monastery in Armenia.

Name _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

To the glory of God (your name), In memory of _____ In honor of: _____ Will be inscribed on permanent plaque at the Monastery. Donations can be made in whole or in part with a one-time payment, or monthly based on a pledge basis (ie. Pledge \$250 over 2 months with 2 payments of \$225.) . * If you want to help the project in Armenia (ie. Painting, restoration) please consider adding either \$10, \$25 or \$50 to your donation. Please check the amount here \$ _____

Signature _____ *Payments can be made in full or part until August 2019, by cash, check, credit card, payable to Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church. NOTE: Service Project-AKHTALA on check

Send to:

Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church
c/o Fr. Souin-Service Project 2020

70 Jefferson Street, Providence, RI 02908

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS ♥ HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Church is a 501 (C) (3) Charity and donation are tax deductible and a tangible sign of your charity and support of our mission.

