

February Mission Intention

That the Lord may sustain health care workers assisting the sick and elderly in the world's poorest regions.



I was sick and you visited me.

Country Focus: Armenia: An ancient culture and faith recovering from many transitions.

Armenia is an ancient culture located at the crossroads of Western Asia and Eastern Europe. The ancient Silk Road passed through Armenia making it an important trade route and a strategic location that many empires and states have tried to control. Because of this Armenia has been the location of many wars and many sad episodes of brutality and suffering. In particular, between 1915-1918, the Ottoman Empire caused the genocide of nearly 1 million Armenians. This memory still weighs heavy on their descendants to this day.

Today, Armenia is an independent and democratic country having broken away from the former Soviet Union.



It is striving to rebuild its culture, economy and people, particularly for those living in rural areas.

Christianity in Armenia is said to have been founded by the Apostles Bartholomew and Thaddeus. It was the first Christian state in 301 A.D. The Christian faith has sustained the Armenian people despite many threats and challenges. Today, Armenian Catholics live in many places around the world including the USA. The Church in Armenia continues to sustain this country of many transitions as it tries to recover and grow and serve the most vulnerable in their midst.

God's Word for Mission

Promoting Knowledge of Faith

"Is anyone among you suffering? He should pray. Is anyone in good spirits? He should sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? He should summon the presbyters of the Church, and they should pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord, and the prayer of faith will save the sick person, and the Lord will raise him up" (James 5:13-15).

"Life and physical health are precious gifts entrusted to us by God. We must take reasonable care of them, taking into account the needs of others and the common good" (#2288 Catechism).

Saint for Healing: St. Jude Thaddeus the Apostle

Education for Community Life

St. Jude, also known as Thaddeus, was one of Jesus' twelve original apostles. He was thought to be a direct relative of Jesus. After the resurrection, Jude and Bartholomew were the first to bring Christianity to the present day nation of Armenia. Jude preached throughout present day Turkey, Syria and Lebanon.

The story is told that Jude was sent to Edessa to meet King Abgar who was ill. Upon meeting, the King was cured of his disease. Soon he converted to Christianity along with many people under his rule.



St. Jude is the patron saint of lost causes, desperate cases and of hospitals.

Feast Day is October 28th

Jude was martyred for his faith in Lebanon in the year 65AD.

St. Jude is said to be the author of the New Testament Letter of Jude and calls himself the "Servant of Jesus Christ." He is often pictured with the face of Jesus over his heart because of his complete devotion to Jesus and his compassion for the most vulnerable. He encouraged believers to "build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit" (vs. 20-21).



CENTER for MISSION
Serving the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

Caring for Most Vulnerable

Catholic Social Teaching

Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

Those who are most vulnerable in our society deserve our special attention and support. We do this through our prayer, our words of encouragement and acts of compassion. Showing love to the sick and elderly is as essential as the ministry of the sacraments and preaching. The preferential option for the poor and vulnerable includes all those marginalized in our world including: the unborn, persons with disabilities, the elderly, the terminally ill and those suffering from violence and oppression.

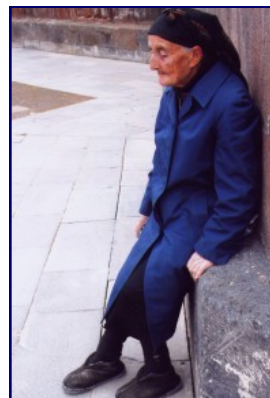


Photo by Tom Vartabedian
The Armenian Weekly

My Mission Gift - Offering Prayer, Service and Treasure *Moral Formation*

Give an hour of Prayer

- Pray daily for the sick and vulnerable in Armenia and throughout the world.
- Pray for those who help the sick.
- Pray a rosary on World Day of the Sick on February 11, 2012, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.
- Participate in Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick or blessing of St. Blaze on Feb. 3rd.

Give an hour of Service

- Assist or visit an elderly relative or neighbor.
- Share some time with people at local nursing home.
- Learn more about children and adults who live with disabilities and other health conditions.



Give a Buck for Mission

- Give \$1 to the **Holy Childhood Association** which exists to foster faith, peace and health care for children who live in areas of poverty, war and other forms of conflict, like in Armenia. Holy Childhood provides for basic health care, dispensaries and hospitals to care for most vulnerable, especially children.

Learn more about the Holy Childhood Association by going to: www.onefamilyinmission.org/hca.

Place gift commitments and offerings in your Holy Bucket. If you do not have one and would like one, contact Eric Simon at simone@archspm.org.

Petitions for Mission

Liturgical Education

- ✚ Let us pray for the sick in body, mind and spirit. May they experience the healing love of Jesus.
- ✚ Let us pray for doctors, nurses and all other healthcare workers who care for the sick.
- ✚ Let us pray for those who are the most vulnerable in the world; especially the unborn, disabled, elderly and dying. May we protect those who live at the margins of our society.
- ✚ Let us pray for the healing of families, cities and nations so that they may live peaceful and fruitful lives.
- ✚ Let us pray for ourselves so that we may know the love and healing of Jesus where we need it most.

Prayer for Mission

Missionary Initiative

Dear Jesus, you bring healing and mercy to the sick and most vulnerable. Send your healing spirit upon us so that we may bring your love and compassion to those we meet in need. Amen.