

Reflections from the Past Twenty Years in Sunday School

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Twenty years ago, Der Garabed Kochakian asked me a simple question: *"Would you like to teach Sunday School?"* I had just returned from a trip to Armenia with my extended family and was sharing stories with him. I could never have imagined how far that one question would carry me.

For two decades, I have had the privilege of teaching Armenian Christian education to our ten year-old students. Fifth graders are curious, energetic, thoughtful, and full of questions. They reminded me, week after week, that faith is not only something we teach — it is something we continue to discover together.

I have been grateful for the resources provided by the Eastern Diocese Children and Family Ministry. Their materials are organized, engaging, and meaningful, helping us bring our faith to life in ways that resonate with our students.

Our goal has always been to help children build a Christian foundation they can carry throughout their lives. Over the years, I have watched them grow, learn, question, and develop their own relationship with God and with our Armenian Church. Witnessing that journey has truly been a blessing.

Looking back, I realize that Der Garabed's question was far more than an invitation to teach — it was an invitation to serve. Through this ministry, I came to know many more of our parishioners, especially fellow teachers and the families of the children I taught. Those relationships and experiences are among the things I will always cherish.

I grew in my own faith, learned the joy of serving our Church community, and received twenty years of memories. I developed friendships, taught lessons, shared laughter, and experienced moments of deepening faith.

I thank Der Garabed for asking me that one question twenty years ago. Most importantly, I discovered that while I thought I was teaching my students, they were also teaching me. It has been a privilege to serve our children and our Armenian Church community.