

Commemoration of St. Nersess the Great and St. Bishop Khad

St. Nersess the Great, Catholicos of All Armenians (353-373) is one of the most prominent Armenian Pontiffs. According to historical sources he is from the family and lineage of St. Gregory the Illuminator, and grandson of the Armenian Patriarch Houssik.

Following the death of Catholicos Paren I (of Ashtishat), Nersess is a chamberlain (chief attendant or steward) for the Armenian King Arshak. Although a layman at the time, he is found to be the most deserving candidate for the throne of the Catholicos, and under the compulsion of the King is ordained as a priest, and consecrated as Catholicos. The Armenian Pontiff becomes the first great reformer of the Church and a renowned benefactor of his nation. Upon Nersess' initiative, a National Ecclesiastical Council is convened in Ashtishat in 354. Upon his initiative, decisions are made which are intended to regulate and bring order to the spiritual-ecclesiastical life, based upon the defined moral principles of the family. Nersess the Great establishes numerous monasteries and schools. He builds hospices, residences and hospitals for the ill, homeless and the poor. The Catholicos was always with his flock. The Armenian people won the battle of Dzirav due to St. Nersess' unceasing prayers for victory on a nearby mountaintop, as the war was being waged on the field below. For his devout activity Nersess the Great is also called the "Illuminator of Hearts".

Bishop Khad was a supporter of Nersess the Great, and was instrumental in the implementation of the Catholicos' initiatives and undertakings. Historian Pavstos Buzand identifies Bishop Khad as the coadjutor of the Armenian Pontiff, St. Nersess the Great.

When is celebrated

31.05.2008
20.06.2009
12.06.2010
02.07.2011
16.06.2012
08.06.2013
28.06.2014
13.06.2015

04.06.2016
24.06.2017
09.06.2018
29.06.2019
20.06.2020
12.06.2021
25.06.2022
17.06.2023
08.06.2024
28.06.2025
13.06.2026
05.06.2027
24.06.2028
09.06.2029
29.06.2030