

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. John 13:35



Dovie (nee Dikijian) Tilbian joined St. Leon parish when she married Lieutenant Commander Andrew S. Tilbian in 1946. She energetically and enthusiastically wore many hats during her 62 years of service to her parish family, including Sunday school teacher and ACYOA advisor. A member and past chairman of the Women's Guild and one of the first women to serve on the parish council, she also represented St. Leon's as a Diocesan Delegate. She chaired countless committees, programs, and activities. For her tactful and efficient handling of reservations and seating at innumerable events, she was affectionately dubbed, "Madame Daumsag" (Mrs. Ticket). One outstanding challenge was the seating of 1000 people at a banquet to

honor HH Vasken Catholicos in NYC on his 1987 visit. From 1974 through 1986 she served on the Primate's Advisory Council, a small volunteer committee that organized large-scale diocesan events, among which was co-chairmanship of the Armenian Diocese's welcome dinner for John Cardinal O'Conner, Roman Catholic Archbishop to the Archdiocese of New York (1986). The first Women Saints' Day commemoration which has become a yearly tradition was another major achievement. Civic-minded, she was an initiator of the Outreach Programs of the St. Leon parish, and was recognized by Eva's Shelter of Paterson for over a quarter century of service! Dovie also served the Armenian-American community for 70 years through her membership in the Armenian General Benevolent Union. She was a founding member of the Northern NJ Chapter and served the Board in all capacities. She was a coordinator for local host families when airlifted victims were treated for outpatient services during the aftermath of the 1988 Earthquake in Armenia. She actively served the Daughters of Vartan, a sisterhood organization, and likewise served the Valley Hospital Auxiliary of Ridgewood, NJ.

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate, eloquently and aptly eulogized Dovie, citing Matthew 6:28-29 where Jesus says, "And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." Comparing the splendor and beauty of the lilies in the world to Christian love, goodness and service on both a personal and community level, he affirmed that Dovie lived these virtues by reaching out not only to her generation, but to the children and grandchildren of her friends and parish family, evidence of which the sanctuary was filled to capacity with mourners. Stirring tributes honored her memory at the *Hokijash* prepared by the women of the parish following the interment at George Washington Memorial Park Cemetery, Paramus, NJ.

