



ALUMNI OF THE MONTH

OCTOBER 2017

LISA MARDIGIAN

Central Council Chairperson Mallory Maslar interviews Lisa Mardigian about her life growing up in the Church, the ACYOA, and involvement in the parish community

Mallory Maslar: How did you first get involved in the ACYOA?

Lisa Mardigian: My parents have always been very active in our parish. My father was Parish Council Chairman and my mother was Women's Guild Chair as I was growing up. When I was thirteen, I eagerly joined the ACYOA Juniors along with my three siblings. As a Junior, I served as both the Chair and Treasurer and was also actively involved in the Orthodox Youth Athletic Association, for which I now currently serve as the Vice President of the Board.

MM: What impact has the ACYOA had on your life?

LM: The ACYOA has formed my circle of lifelong friends—and set a solid foundation for me in my service to the church. I cherish my memories, and I hope that our youth love the ACYOA as much as I do.

MM: What are some of your favorite memories being involved in the ACYOA?

LM: I have so many memories! Sports Weekends and our annual November Dances are some of my fondest memories. I am especially proud of the establishment of the annual White Cross Project every April 24 to recognize the martyrs of the Armenian Genocide. It has continued to be a parish tradition of our ACYOA for close to twenty years.

MM: What have been some of your influences in your Christian life?

LM: My family, my church school, volunteer service, and all of the bishops and priests in my life have made a great impact on me.

MM: Are you still involved in your parish community?

LM: Absolutely! I have worked as the Youth Coordinator of St. John Armenian Church for the past 26 years. I am actively involved in every aspect of our parish that involves our youth and young adults, and I love my work. After 20 years of service, the St. John's Youth Fund was established in honor of my service to the church. It is utilized throughout the year for all youth related programs such as Day Camp, Hye Camp, St. Nersess Summer Conferences, Basketball, and so much more. This fund helps enable me to be successful in my ministry and ensure that all youth and young adults are able to participate in parish, regional, and diocesan programs.

MM: Any advice for current and future ACYOA members?

LM: Utilizing the five Circles of the Cross is a wonderful catalyst for your chapter programming. Remember to always give back to your church to keep it alive and active.

Fun Fact: Lisa Mardigian was honored in 2000 with the Gregory Arpajian Award by the ACYOA Central Council for displaying leadership and service to the Armenian Church and community.