

Time Machine Assembly Idea: St. Gregory (March 24: Commitment to the pit)

At an all-school Assembly, feature a “time-machine” moment, when some historical figure from the past comes to address the school. Volunteers from parents or upper grades can take these parts. A little melodrama/corniness is certainly okay. Use a large refrigerator carton as the time machine and decorate accordingly. Here’s a script for this season, originally prepared by Holy Martyrs Sunday School, Bayside, NY

*Time machine starts shaking and rattling interrupting Assembly; teachers seem startled.
Expressions of "What's that? What's happening?"*

St. Gregory emerges from time machine.

Whew! Wow! *Wiping his face and straightening his mussed up clothes.*

Leader: Who *are you*?

Is this *looking at a piece of paper he 's taken from his pocket* Holy Martyrs Sunday School in Bayside, NY?

Leader: Yes....

And are we in the year... wow... 200_??

Leader...Yes....

Well, then everything's okay. I just didn't think it would be as hard as it was to travel more than 1700 years through time.

Leader: Uh. . .Who *are you*?

Oh, forgive me! I'm Catholicos Krikor, oh , you probably know me as Krikor Loosavorich or Gregory the Enlightener. . .wait a minute.. I guess by now you know me as *Soorp* Kirkor Loosavorich or *Saint* Gregory the Enlightener. You know, the man who brought Christianity to Armenia.

Leader: Are you serious? You were able to travel all this way through time?

Yes, all the way from the year 304. That was the year I built the Mother Cathedral of Etchmiadzin. . . but that's another story. It was actually in 301 that I baptized King Drtad of Armenia and the royal family and the army. Let's see, students, what century would 301 be in?

Waits for answer. Yes! The fourth century! Right at the beginning of the fourth century. That's when Armenia became the... was it the second Christian nation? Third? I'm a little woozy from time travel... I know it was something amazing... *waits for answers...* Oh yes of course! The very first, the first Christian nation! Time travel *is* very hard. I should have known that since the Lord gave *me* that important job.

Let me tell you about it, because that's why I'm here.

Leader: St. Gregory, why *are you* here? What message do you have for us?

Well. I wrote it all down because I knew time travel would be hard on the brain (as you can see!)

Reading from script whenever necessary) I had just been on a pretty difficult tour of Armenia, building chapels, knocking down pagan temples, and putting the beautiful cross of the Lord up at every crossroad in the country.. .well not *every* one but lots of them.. .Anyway.. .I suddenly found myself face to face with the angel Gabriel who told me I had a special mission. To go to the future, to the ----- Sunday School in----- and tell you all about *how your* faith in our wonderful Lord Jesus Christ is SO IMPORTANT! After all, I spent my whole life teaching it in your beautiful homeland.

But while my mind settles from this long hard trip, let me ask you? Why *do you* think your faith in the Lord and your being member of the Armenian Church are so important? *Wait for answers.*

Yes! Very good! *Or, if silence and no good answers:* Well. let's see, there's the way you become a better person because you follow Christ.. .you become

Able to do good things

Able to see others through God's eyes

Able to love in ways you never could before, whether your parents, your brothers

and sisters, the people in the world..

Able to understand the real meaning of life

Able to live forever in God's love

And how lucky you are to be part of the Armenian Church family. Do you know the story?

I was working in King Drtad's palace and he wanted me to worship a pagan statue but I loved Jesus more than a stone statue so I refused. He had me thrown in a pit where I barely stayed alive for thirteen years...THIRTEEN YEARS - that's about as long as many of you attend Sunday School, but this was day and night and night and day! The king's sister Khosrovitookht kept me alive by sneaking me food until one day I was brought out of the pit to heal the king from a strange illness. He was not only amazed I was still alive but he was inspired by my courage and faith and *he* became a Christian.

Well... the rest is history... In 301, I baptized him and his family in the Euphrates River and the faith began to spread. A few years later, after a powerful dream I had in which Jesus told me where to build the first church, King Drtad, his wife Queen Ashkhen and many others helped me dig the foundations with their own hands and we built the Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin which still stands today. How many of you have been to Armenia to see it? Well, someday if you're lucky, perhaps you will....

There were lots of people involved, of course, in making Armenia a Christian nation, like the two apostles who brought Christ's teachings to Armenia. Do you remember who they were? *Wait for answers.* Yes! St. Thaddeus and St. Bartholomew.

Then there were the nuns St. Hripsime and St. Gayane who were beautiful examples of faith and courage to King Drtad.

His own wife and his sister were devoted Christians, too.

So you see, it takes faith, courage and good example to "enlighten" other people.

What are some ways *you* can be "enlighteners?" How *canyon* shine the light of Christ on others? *Wait for answers.* Yes!

By...
Being loving
Being good neighbors
Being good friends
Being responsible... towards others, in your home, in caring for your pets, in your
Schoolwork

Being generous to those who need help.

And by coming to Church and Sunday School and getting as much out of it as you can. Sunday is the day our Lord said aside to remember Him and pray together with your church family. Your priest and your teachers and your parents are here to help you do that!

So, dear students of ----- Sunday School., I have to get back to 4th century Armenia. There's still a lot of work to do so that we can pass along a strong faith to you! I'll do my best and God will do the rest! It makes me so happy to know that our work 1700 years ago has made so many people of the Armenian Church faithful and devoted. God bless you.

Good luck this year... and good bye! *Goes back into the time machine that rumbles and rattles.*

End

Leader: Wow...amazing. What an unbelievable visit. Let's keep in mind everything St.Gregory told us as we begin the new school year. Our Lord really is so important to our lives and the Armenian Church is such a beautiful way to get to know Him...

And who knows who else we can expect to see visit us from the past in this amazing time machine?