

Sacraments: A Call to Holy Living

THE SEALING OF OIL: CHRISMATION

UNIT

3

LESSON
THREE

From Our Hearts to God

Dear Lord, let all I do show that I love you with all my heart and all my soul and all my mind. Amen.

MY WORLD

I was born with this beauty mark under my right eye. Most people don't even notice it. I never paid much attention to it either until our family reunion last year. Thirty of us Haroutunians gathered at my Aunt Barbara's home for some good food, fun, and sharing of stories and memories. All of us are descendants of Sarkis and Satenig Haroutunian. They had eight children, 22 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren of which I am the youngest.

Aunty Barbara set up a big photograph display on the wall with Sarkis and Satenig at the top. I stood looking at the pictures for a long time and I noticed every one of my

grand uncles and grand aunts had a beauty mark under their right eye except Uncle Vahan. His was under his left eye. I looked up at the photos of Sarkis and Satenig and there under Satenig's right eye was a beauty mark also. WOW! Then I started looking at the first cousins and found most of them had a beauty mark either under their right or left eye.

I went over to Grand Uncle Vahan and asked him why his was on the left side. He told me he was a lefty while all his brothers and sisters were righties. WOW! I went back to the cousins' pictures and checked left and right sides and then went to ask if they were lefties or righties.

We're a big, loving, proud Armenian family. We think of our non-Armenian relatives who married into our family as Armenians too! Most of us have the Haroutunian beauty mark. It is our special mark, our special sign of membership. My brother Harry joked with me and said his must be invisible because he really doesn't have one but wishes he did.

Most people don't even notice the beauty mark, but I know it is there. It is always there and I love that it ties me to this family. I am proud of my family and I want my family to be proud of me.



GOD'S GUIDING WORDS

There are some things people cannot do, but
God can do anything. *Luke 18:27*



Getting Closer to God

What does it mean to live a holy life? It means

- choosing to go to church.
- remembering to say your prayers.
- thanking God for the blessings he gives you.
- caring about others.
- helping when people need help.
- you know you aren't perfect, but you keep trying to be the best you can be.
- remembering always that you belong to God.

Write one more thing about living a holy life:





Taking a **Closer** Look

Holy *muron* is the special oil the church uses in the sacraments of Baptism, Chrismation and Unction. During the Sacrament of Chrismation the priest anoints the person with holy *muron* in nine places – eyes, ears, nose, mouth, hands, feet, heart, back and forehead.

Put a cross on the picture of the baby on each of the 9 places the priest anoints by making a cross with the holy *muron*.



RESPONDING IN FAITH

Lord, we are so happy to be sealed in the Holy Spirit. Help us be worthy of that special mark in everything we do and say this week and always. Amen.

Our Armenian Way

Holy *muron* is made every seven years. The priests at Etchmiadzin make it by mixing olive oil with the essential oils of many flowers and the *muron* left from the last time it was made. When it is ready to be blessed, the Catholicos stirs the pot with the golden arm which holds a relic of St. Gregory the Illuminator.

Priests and representatives from Armenian Churches around the world come to witness the making of *muron*. When it is done, each Bishop who is the Primate of a Diocese takes a container of *muron* back to his Diocese and distributes it to all the churches in his Diocese.



Look at the pictures of the making of *muron*. Here are some of the traditional ingredients.

Balsam oil

Cinnamon

Violet

Myrtle

Olive oil

Incense

Water Lily

Narcissus

Carnation

Crocus

Orange flower

Laurel seed

Nutmeg

Sweet Marjoram

Allspice

Gooseberry

Chamomile

Laurel



Do you know what each of these are? Look them up in a dictionary.

Oil was used in Jesus' time for many purposes such as creating light in oil lamps, treating hair and skin, in cooking of course, for treating wounds, caring for animals, and in religious services.

In Jesus' time not everyone was educated to read and write. Marks were important ways to know what belonged to whom. Back then and today, sheep and cattle are marked or branded to show who owned them. Kings had special rings or seals that would be used to mark their written orders. Soldiers may not have been able to read the signature of the king, but everyone knew the king's sealing mark.

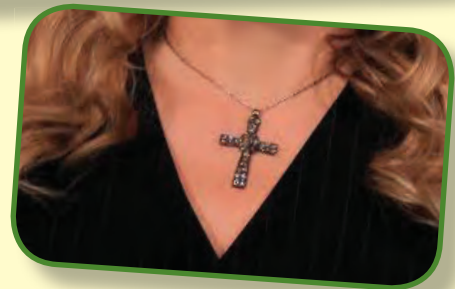
Chrismation marks a person as belonging to God. The holy *muron* does not remain visible, but all who have been chrismated know they are now part of the special group of God's people.

Time to Celebrate

Many Christian symbols show others that a building, a house, a car belong to people who are Christian. Some people put crosses on walls in their homes. Some people wear cross jewelry. Some homes have religious statues on their lawns. Buildings with crosses usually are churches or church property. People put the Christian fish symbol magnets on their cars which show they are Christian.

All these are outer and visible signs of Christianity. Our anointing with oil at our chrismation doesn't show. It is a very personal and intimate mark of our belonging to Christ.

What would you choose as a symbol of your Christian faith?



FAMILY CORNER

Sharing Our Faith

Today's lesson highlighted the Sacrament of Chrismation as a mark of membership in God's family and the sealing with holy *muron* of our commitment to live a holy life. Students discussed the symbolism of the nine parts of the body blessed at their Chrismation and created their own pretend *muron*. They also imagined and drew their own symbols of faith.

Living Our Faith

Try one of these family activities at home this week:

1. Create a family crest or seal. You might want to do this on your computer and print out labels that your family can place on items in your house that are representative of your family such as family pictures, or a family Bible.
2. Gather different kinds of oil that you have in your house – cooking oil, machine oil, baby oil, lubricant oil. Talk about the use and purpose of each. Oil a pair of scissors with your lubricating oil. Rub baby oil on the back of your hands. Squirt a bit of machine oil in an appliance that needs oiling. Finally, have the whole family make a salad and have your fourth grader add the salad oil to it.