

**1995 ANNUAL CHOIR ASSEMBLY
CHOIR REPORT**

Functions, Activities and Comments.

One of the most vital parts of our Divine Liturgy is the church choir. It's purpose is to enhance the service in a way which will touch the hearts of members in the congregation spiritually. Our choir continues to participate in the church services each Sunday, for special church services such as Women Saint's day, Martyr's Day, Vartanantz and others. The choir also participated in singing the Morning Service music as often as possible during the absence of our parish priest due to illness.

Throughout the year, the choir has held a number of rehearsals. Although there was no weekly rehearsal or a schedule for one, the choirs held a good number of rehearsals. I feel they did very well when singing the music of a special day. Much work still needs to be done though.

Our Assistant Choir Director took the time to teach the children of the Sunday School Armenian Folk Dancing for our Annual Picnic.

Our Choir Director spent a good amount of time selecting new music for the December Sunday School Program. Only the selected new music for Mary Abrahamian's Pre-school class which was performed at the December Christmas Party.

Prior to the graduation of our senior Sunday School Class in 1995, the director spoke to each individual about joining the choir. Although there was positive response from several students and encouragement by all our choir members, these individuals have not come up and participated - only one on occasion.

Our Choir Director, Adrienne Damian represented our church at the 49th Annual Assembly of the Association of Armenian Church Choirs in Paolos Heights, Illinois. She participated as Assembly Secretary and served as Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Information received from the assembly workshops are passed onto the choir through rehearsals. The workshop topics this year was Holy Thursday(Eucharist and Betrayal) and Good Friday. It was broken down into two sessions in which all attended both. There was scripture study which contained an analytical discussion on the last supper, the Washing of the Feet, His betrayal, arrest, trial, tortures, crucifixion and death. There was a workshop in music by Maestro Khoren Meikhanjian of the Diocese.

We discussed what takes place holy week - the reenactment of what took place; taken from our scriptures, we get a complete picture of the celebration. The narrative was transformed into prayers that are ready by the priest and the hymns which are sung and the roles are portrayed during this liturgical drama. The problem with Holy Week is that few members attend the services of this week. As choir members, it is up to us to revive and reinspire the worshipping community to be present as well as be participants. Coffee breaks between worship services loses the momentum and flow. Many are so busy with

their lives, they don't take the time to think about what is going on this week and it's significance.

Suggestions made is that after Wednesday night's church, learn new hymns for Holy week.

There was discussion about the three services which take place on Holy Thursday - Holy Eucharist on Thursday Morning is seldom done in the church any more, Washington of the Feet and the Betrayal. An in depth explanation was done about the Betrayal Service.

The hymn which is prominent during this service is Ooress Mayrig in which Christ seeks his mother talking about his death in a cry in the darkness. Khatchi Ko Kristos was another. The music to those hymns were taught by Maestro.

The workshops were very worth while. I only wish more individuals were able to attend.

Goals for 1996:

1. Need to address promptness and discipline in our choir.
2. Work on choir etiquette and church etiquette for those who attend.
3. Begin rehearsals with the new Divine Liturgy Books.
4. Work with the Sunday School Superintendent regarding teaching the Sharagans from the Treasury of Armenian Music for Children by Shahan Arzuni to the teachers so that it may be taught during the opening of the Sunday School ceremony.
3. Get past graduates to come to choir.
4. Replenish our choir bank book.
5. Have as many choir members attend the 50th Choir Assembly in New York as possible, especially for the workshops.
6. Start rehearsing the new Christmas Eve Service prepared by our Director early this year.
7. Voice training and practice for deacons and choir.
8. Yearly organ maintenance.
9. Teach Sunday School students folk music in Armenian.
10. Learn the Morning Service proficiently so that it can be sung at least once per month.
11. Get some of the Sunday School students to come up and sing in the choir more often.

We have been very fortunate to have Susan Sagharian play the organ as often as possible to relieve our organist, Lucy Simonian, who has served our church for many years. Also, Lee Abrahamian has been with us on occasion but mostly at Christmas Eve. I want to take this time to express my gratitude to all of them for unselfishly giving your time to our church choir.

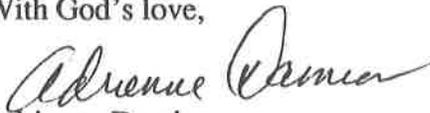
I want to thank our Deacons: Charlie Mazadoorian, Paul Abrahamian, Stephen DerMargosian and Sarkis Daouvidlarian for participating in the Divine Liturgy and doing Morning Service.

Thank our committed choir members, Rose Mosey, Sirvart Simonian, Sonia Ohanian for being there almost every Sunday of the year.

Pat

I want to thank my Assistant Director, Yerezgin Patricia Buttero for taking over the directing in my absence, especially Christmas Eve.

With God's love,



Adrienne Damian
Choir Director