

## PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT - 1978

By the grace of God and through the participation of our active parishioners, this year has been a significant milestone in the life of our parish not only for having initiated a few new programs, but especially because of the culmination of concerted efforts in the discovery of a suitable site for our church. It seems as though we labored and belabored long enough on this issue and we finally have a birth which by the will of God will be a new and more vigorous beginning in the life of this parish.

### WORSHIP AND SACRAMENTS:

Divine Liturgy and preaching of the Word of God has been conducted regularly, except for one Sunday when I attended the ACYOA Annual Assembly. Five Sundays during the summer the church was filled with young people of high school and college age, who had come from other parishes throughout the Diocese to attend religious study conferences which I conducted as my last duty with St. Nersess Seminary.

On two occasions we had the pleasure of hearing sermons from a distinguished guest preacher, the Rt. Rev. Bishop Zgon DerHagopian.

During Lent we had regular services followed by educational programs.

I have conducted services at the Armenian Old Age Home in Flusing, at an ACYOA Retreat in Rye, and participated in the observance of Woman of the Year at the Diocese, Good Friday service at the Sacred Heart Church in Hartsdale and an Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at the Genesis Hebrew Center in Tuckahoe.

I have conducted four baptisms, four weddings and one funeral service, that of our dear friend and faithful member of our church, Puzant Azarian, whose memory we shall continue to cherish. May God rest his soul in His eternal peace.

This year I have initiated writing letters to the parents of the children I have baptized on their birthdays, reminding them of their baptismal vow for the spiritual nurture of their children.

### PASTORAL AND EDUCATIONAL

Since assuming full time pastorate I have increased my pastoral visits especially to the sick, the elderly and the shut-in. Time and distance have necessitated that many other visits be conducted by telephone.

I have been called upon to be involved in counseling situations both in personal and family problems. I consider these the most crucial pastoral opportunities for service and occasions for the Holy Spirit to touch lives and broken relationships. This is the area where the Church acts as the healing and loving agent in the Hand of God.

It has been my duty and pleasure to participate in the planning and execution of various educational and cultural programs sponsored by our church organizations.

A few of our ACYOA members attended religious education and liturgical music programs sponsored by St. Nersess Seminary in New Rochelle. The knowledge and enthusiasm they received from these motivational gatherings are put to good use in their participation in the church's life.

In the months of June and July, under the sponsorship of the church, a brief course in Armenian language was offered and several young adults took part in it.

The monthly parish newsletter, HOPE, was published regularly and mailed to about 450 people, carrying parish news as well as useful information on our church and culture.

### ADMINISTRATIVE AND ORGANIZATIONAL

As president of the Parish Council and church organizations I have attended all membership and executive committee meetings throughout the year. Since my assumption of full time status in September I turned my attention to strengthening the choir, the Armenian and Sunday Schools and organizing a

new group. I am happy to say that efforts expended in these directions and the assistance of the School Committee, under the capable chairmanship of Mrs. Anita Wolohojian, resulted in the considerable expansion of the Armenian School and the Sunday School. Through regular rehearsals and the addition of new members and especially the return of our faithful and dedicated choirdirector, Alfred Yeznaian, the singing of the choir has certainly improved. I am involved in an ongoing Deacons Training program.

By the end of the year, the Women's Guild resumed activities with renewed vigor, while the Mr. and Mrs. Club took a pause until it too reorganizes itself at the opportune time.

The formation of an Avak (Seniors) Group in the Fall became a source of joy both for me and the participants. From a list of over 35 names about 20 Seniors participated in two successful events, one in New Rochelle, the other at Holy Martyrs Church, Bayside. After a pause for the inclement weather, the group will resume its monthly gatherings by visiting Avak groups of neighboring Armenian churches.

#### APPRECIATION

I express my deep gratitude to our dedicated choir members, altar servers, choirdirector, Sunday School and Armenian School teachers, who discharged their responsibilities weekly. I am particularly grateful and gratified by the dedication and service of the Parish Council which had a fruitful year under the capable and devoted chairmanship of Edward Essayan, who also spent countless hours in the search of a church site. My thanks also to the School Committee, the Senior and Junior chapters of the ACYOA, the Women's Guild, the Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Club, the Building Fund Committee, the Nominating and the Auditing Committees.

I conclude my report by reminding us all that we are at the threshold of a new period. This is a new season full of potential opportunities for growth, challenge to meet our financial obligations to the church and the Diocese, and greater call for cementing our good will and cooperation and work toward a new and more dynamic beginning for our parish. Just a word of pastoral warning: Let us not allow our concern for fund-raising this year make us lose sight of the main goal of the Church, which is the building up of our Christian spiritual life individually, as a family and as a parish.

I consider the parish my extended family and feel privileged to serve it to the best of my ability.