

In the life of many churches and communities, as the years are absorbed into history, the acts, deeds and achievements of men and women leave a record for the survivors, to study, ponder upon, search new perspectives, and plan for the years ahead.

An Annual Assembly is usually associated with the above activities, and is usually concerned with giving and receiving many reports, electing officers, exchanging of ideas, and setting goals, budgets and appropriations.

~~For a conscientious pastor, taking account of the past and looking into the future ^{over} mountains of difficulties is a painful process.~~

At this time, together with you we are privileged to share the harvest of our spiritual accomplishments. You have given so unselfishly of your time, energy, and money, but we must also be mindful of the fact that there is no end to service and giving. I ask you to view the year 1977 with satisfaction, but not with complacency.

Let us resolve to do even more in the future - to give greater meaning and glory to our church life.

I personally feel that during this period, I have tried to the best of my ability to attend to all your spiritual needs, administrative chores, and educational programs by officiating, preaching, organizing, providing leadership, visiting the sick as well as the healthy, and over and above all this, I devoted months searching for a convenient location for our future church.

I left no avenues unexplored until I finally found our new church, and we were able to put a deposit on same until the final closing in February, 1978.

Church Services: Soorp Badarak was celebrated regularly every Sunday, as well as on special Feast Days. Sermons were delivered in both Armenian and English. At this time I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Choir members for their dedication and service to the church.

A special thanks to our organist, Mrs. Grace Arakelian, and to the Deacons, Fraij Yapoujian and Hrand Arakelian.

Sacraments: Sacraments were administered and recorded in the 1977 Register as follows:

Visitations: Baptisms, 3 - Engagements, 2 - Weddings, 2 - Funerals, 7. To know the community members at their best can only be accomplished through visitations. I have done my utmost to visit our families - be they happy or sad occasions, and have never refused any invitation to visit any home, for whatever the reason may be.

I have visited the sick at hospitals, nursing homes, or in their own homes whenever I have been notified. My records show 187 such visits during the past year.

Meetings: I have participated and presided over all of the meetings of our parish organizations, without exceptions, providing them with leadership and sound counselling.

Church

Publications: Now famous, our church publication "Voice" is mailed to all addresses in our community, including our friends and the parishes of our Diocese, California, Canada, and abroad,

This bulletin has kept our many friends throughout the length breadth of this land, aware of our progress. Along with hundreds of letters of commendation, our church has realized through voluntary contributions from non-parishioners, the sum of \$1,050, sent to us in appreciation of the work we are doing in this community.

Sunday School:

Sunday began its 1976-1977 academic year with a full program and renewed zeal. Under the leadership of Yeretzgin Grace Arakelian, the School was completely re-organized and our enrollment was increased to an all-time high.

Pledge System:

The weekly Pledge System was organized and planned, and started. This difficult task of securing pledgors was entrusted to Yeretzgin Grace Arakelian, who, through her personal efforts of telephone calls, letters, etc., was able to enlist the highest number of participants, in the history of this church.

The goal of this program will be to raise an annual and steady amount of \$10,000, thus stabilizing our budget. We are happy to report that we have almost achieved this success.

With the prospect of a beautiful, modern church building, housing individual Sunday School classrooms, along with ample facilities for outdoor sports, all on 7 1/2 acres of beautifully wooded and level land, we look forward to a new year of overwhelming success, with the anticipation that God has even greater blessings and miracles in store for us in 1978.

Let us resolve to double our efforts, involvements, and devotion to God, and His Church and His work. Let us all be realistic and optimistic, and continue in great fervor to worship, serve, love, and sacrifice faithfully and regularly.

May God bless all of you according to your thoughts, dedication and deeds.

Rev. Levon Arakelian

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