



REV. FR. UNTZAG NALBANDIAN  
ARMENIAN CHURCH OF  
THE HOLY ASCENSION

1460 Huntington Turnpike  
Trumbull, Conn. 06611  
Tel: 203/372/5770

ՍՅ. ՀԱՄԱՐԱԲՉՈՒՄ ՀԱՅՑ. ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ

Ց. ԸՆԶԱԿ ԲԷՆՑ. ՆԱԼԳԱՆՏԵԱՆ, Հոլի

Jan. 26, 1986

P A S T O R ' S   A N N U A L   R E P O R T

Holy Ascension Armenian Church is a community of people, sharing a common ethnic identity and tradition, committed to Jesus Christ as Lord and to the teachings of both the Christian Gospel and of our Holy Church.

The Armenian church is both hierarchial and democratic in organization. In our Diocese, we have our by-laws, a rule of order which applies to us all. Within this framework, we have both ordained ministry and elected councils who are to work together for the good of the whole church. Together, with the Parish Council, I am charged with providing leadership to this parish, responsible for the life and work of this congregation.

I accept my responsibilities with total commitment to our Lord, the Armenian Church and her people. I love my church, my people and admire at our history. So I like my work.

To be able to work effectively and fruitfully any parish priest needs peace of soul and mind. I am happy to see that, in general our parishioners are kind and devoted people and do grant me that peace.

If in 1985 we were able to involve 70 different people in this or that organiz. or committees, I am sure in 1986 we can double this number if we work a little more organized and by more communicating with the non-active members and friends of our Church. My experience shows that the people are there, just approach them, ask them, knock their doors and most of them will open. I believe that each of our parishioner has different virtues and talents.

We have doctors, lawyers, businessmen, artists, teachers, ordinary workers and so on. We must be able to benefit from each of these and have their input in different matters of our parish. I like to involve more people and different people. That's the only way to revitalize a community and lighten the burden of those, who always do the same job.

I believe that a day could come, when we could see that every member of our church has some kind of responsibility in our church. As the body needs its all parts to work, to remain healthy, similarly the church needs her all members to remain strong and healthy.

Please, don't wait always for calls and invitations. This is your church, come and ask: "How can I help my Church?". I assure you you'll find your right place in this or that organization or committees.

We have 7 permanently active organizations and probably another 6/7 temporary committees which are formed at a certain time to do certain job.

1985 was full of different activities. Here are few of those religious, cultural, social and fund-raising activities:

- January - Sunday School's Christmas party  
Annual Parish Assembly
- February - Vartanantz feast day celebration  
(Dinner and guest speaker)
- March - Michink lenten dinner  
Women's saints day at the Diocese  
Every Wednesday "peace & rest service"
- April - Madagh dinner & guest speaker. All the survivors were honored.  
On April 24, Martyrs day Badarak. Also "the Armenian case" movie was showed.  
ACYOA SRS. printed T-shirts.  
Deacon Chevian, Nancy Basmajian and Elise Antreasian with the Seminarians visited our parish.  
Fr. Oshagan's "Yerevan" chorale group gave a concert in our church. A booklet was published.
- May - Oriental Rug sale .  
"40 days of Musa Dagh" movie was showed at Univ. of Bridgeport.  
ACYOA Jrs. had mother's day breakfast.  
54 th Anniv. celebration of our church.
- June - Sunday school had a bus trip.
- August - ACYOA Srs. had car wash  
Church Picnic.
- Sept. - Bus trip to one World Festival  
Infomational Parish Assembly  
1st pre-Baz. dinner & guest speaker (Dr. Paul Bedoukian spoke on Armenian coins).
- Oct. - 2nd pre-Baz. dinner & guest speaker (Lionel Ketchian spoke on Positive thinking & Living)  
3rd pre-baz. dinner & guest speaker (Mirjan Kirian spoke on Armenian expressions).  
ACYOA SRs. had Halloween Costume party.
- Nov . - Mt. Ararat Festival & Bazaar
- Dec. - Ladies elections.  
Pastor's Sunday  
Christmas Eve Service.

In 1985 I have presided over 100 meetings, this includes: all organizational and committee meetings such as the Rug sale, Cult. Comm. Baz. comm. etc.

I have performed 4 baptisms, 3 weddings and 3 funeral services in our church. I have participated to a wedding in another church.

I have made more than 100 visits, this includes: sick visits, visits to the elderly, visits to those who cannot attend our church services to give communion, home blessings and regular visits.

I have visited St. Vartan camp, St. Nersess seminary and attended regional and other special committee meetings at the Diocese, representing our parish.

In 1985 the following major donations were made to our church:

- a/ One side Altar
- b/ New Baptismal font
- c/ New Altar cross
- d/ One classroom was dedicated to late Martha Khachadourian.

We still will need another donor for the second altar.

In 1985 we have lost 5 families, they moved from the area. But also we gained 5 new families, they moved to our area. The membership went up by approx. 30 new members. Here I thank Dr. Berdj Harabedian, Steve Goomrigian and Sonia Trapasso for doing wonderful job. The church attendance, also, I see is improving.

Recently a special committee was formed to provide transportation at least once a month, to the elderly (Sen. citizens), to bring them to church. The committee members are: Archie Misakian, Sarkis Kaolian and Richard Najarian.

Upon the request of few parishioners, in '86, I will organize Bible study gatherings in different areas and in different parishioners homes on weekly basis. A committee is being formed for that purpose too.

Upon the request of the parish council, soon the Mr. & Mrs. Club will be revitalized. While making visitations, I have mentioned this to few families, they were very enthusiastic about it.

Also in '86, I will organize special educational lectures about our Church, culture and history. I already have informed you about the first three lectures, which will take place during Lent. These lectures will be in a very informal way and in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. Try to benefit. The purpose of these lectures is to educate our parishioners.

In '85 Kim Kasparian will be the advisor of the Juniors ACYOA. And I have appointed Tom Dabaghian to be the advisor to the Senior ACYOA.

I am very concerned about our youth. Without our youth we cannot built our future. Please, parents if you have teenagers and young adults, push them, encourage them to join to one of these groups, wherever they belong. Tell them to contact their Pastor, Parish council and their advisors. Let them express their needs to us and we will try to satisfy them.

In '86, I am thinking to form or organize a band in our Parish. I will try to attract and involve our talented young boys and girls. Let them come together, learn Armenian Folk songs and then play for the entire community on different occasions.

We have gone a long way, but still we have long way to go.

I thank all the organizations, Parish Council, Ladies Guild, Choir, Armenian School, Sunday School, ACYOA Srs. and ACYOA Jrs. - their officers and members for serving to our church in 1985 unselfishly.

Also all those who served in different committees such as, Cultural Comm., Bazaar Comm., Building Comm., Pledge & Membership Comm., Ani newsletter editor & staff, Rug sale Comm., Concert Comm., Church florist, Social worker, Church Maintenance people, Deacons, Acolytes, organists, conductors and all the others who supported our church in other way, be it morally or financially. On Pastor's sunday, I have mentioned the names of all the people who served our church - almost 70 names, it will be repetition to do the same today.

I would like to express my personal and pastoral words of appreciation to the following four parishioners for serving our parish so many years and then retiring:

Stephan Goomrigian, served 6 years (3 terms) in the council. He was the treasurer. I was very happy to have a person like him who served unselfishly and with great zeal. Thank you steve.

Theresa Harabedian for serving over 20 years in our Sunday school as superintendant. Also to Beatrice Javian and Janice Touloukian for serving as teachers in our sunday school. Thank you all of you.

My report will not be completed if I forget to mention the other council members who provided leadership with the pastor to this community in '85.

Mardi Azarian, chairman for the last 3 years. My assignment to this parish started with Mardi, he was the first person to contact me. The last two years I have worked with him with no difficulty. As I have said before, he has good logic and judgement. It is a great advantage to have as chairman someone like him, who understands, knows to think, knows to talk and knows to listen.

Ricard Kalfaian, secretary, Archie Misakian vice chariman, Harry Tashjian Ass't treasurer, Garo Garabedian and Deacon Vrej Yapoujian.

Also, our Diocesan delegate, Dr. Berdj Harabedian, for representing our parish at the annual Diocesan Assembly.

As I said before, we still have long way to go, many things to do.

I personally have other dreams or plans to see accomplished in this parish. I need your support. I can assure you, that whatever I do or plan it is for the good of all my parishioners.

Let us continue to seek God's inspiration and strength as we work together to guild stronger our Armenian Christian heritage through the family of Holy Ascension Armenian Church.

Let us be guided by His love, peace and hope, always remaining faithful to the faith of our forefathers as we work not for our own personal vanity but for His glory and the good of His people.

*F. Untzag Nalbandian*  
Father Untzag Nalbandian  
P A S T O R