

## PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

FEB. 4, 1990

IT IS HARD FOR ME TO BELIEVE THAT TWO WEEKS AGO, I STARTED MY 7TH YEAR OF SERVICE AS THE PASTOR OF OUR 59 YEAR OLD PARISH.

I TAKE MY RESPONSIBILITIES SERIOUSLY AND TRY TO DO MY BEST IN FOLLOWING THE CANONS OF OUR CHURCH AND THE BY-LAWS OF OUR DIOCESE.

IN TWO MONTHS, IT WILL BE 12 YEARS THAT, I AM SERVING IN THIS DIOCESE. I KNOW, BY NOW, WHAT DIFFICULTIES A PARISH PRIEST GOES OR CAN GO THROUGH. BUT I ALSO KNOW HOW GRATIFYING AND REWARDING HIS JOB COULD BE, ONLY IF HE STAYS FIRM ON HIS FAITH AND COMMITMENT AND ON THE TEACHINGS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST AND OF OUR CHURCH FATHERS.

1989 WAS FULL OF RELIGIOUS, CULTURAL-EDUCATIONAL, SOCIAL AND FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES. I BELIEVE THAT ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS DID THEIR BEST. I THANK EACH ONE OF YOU, FOR YOUR SERVICES, ASSISTANCE AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT. WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT AND INVOLVEMENT WE CAN'T KEEP THE DOORS OF THIS CHURCH OPEN. I PRAY THAT GOD INCREASES THE NUMBER OF GOOD SERVANTS/VOLUNTEERS.

THIS YEAR INSTEAD OF ONLY REFLECTING ON THE PAST, I ALSO WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT OUR FUTURE 1990 ACTIVITIES AND GOALS. HERE ARE SOME OF THE THINGS THAT I HAVE IN MIND:

- 1- HAVE BIBLE STUDY AFTER THE PEACE AND REST SERVICES IN OUR CHURCH HALL. DURING LENT.
- 2- ORGANIZE A "YOUNG COUPLE'S CLUB". ALL NEWLY MARRIED YOUNG COUPLES CAN JOIN, PLAN THEIR ACTIVITIES AND INVOLVE THEMSELVES IN OUR PARISH LIFE.
- 3- PREPARE THE PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS OF OUR CHURCH FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR CHURCH, WHICH IS NEXT YEAR, i.e. HAVE SIXTY YOUNG PEOPLE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN OUR PARISH LIFE, TO GET THE TORCH FROM THE OLDER GENERATION. ALSO, HAVE ONE LAST FUND-RAISING TO BURN THE MORTGAGE IN THE PRESENCE OF OUR PRIMATE. (150 MEMBERS x \$500.00)
- 4- START A "PARISH ENDOWMENT FUND".
- 5- DO THE SURVEY OF THE BACK 4 ACRES OF LAND. ( YOU'LL HEAR ABOUT THIS LATER).
- 6- HAVE THE CONSECRATION OF THE TEN NEW PAINTINGS AND THE OPENING OF OUR HALL AND CLASSROOMS WITH OUR SURPAZAN.
- 7- WRITE AND PUBLISH A BOOK ABOUT THESE SAINTS WITH SOME OTHER ARTICLES THAT MIGHT INTEREST AND HELP OUR AMERICAN BORN NEW GENERATION TO COME CLOSER TO THEIR CHURCH. /HERE, I AM HAPPY TO SAY THAT , I NOT ONLY HAVE THE SUPPORT OF MANY OF MY PARISHIONERS BUT ALSO OUR PRIMATE, ARCHBISHOP TORKOM MANOOGIAN/. MY GOAL IS TO MAKE THIS BOOK READY AND PUBLISHED BY JUNE 3, 1990. I CAN'T PROMISE, IT WON'T BE EASY.
- 8- HAVE ANOTHER JOINT ACTIVITY WITH WESTCHESTER PARISH, POSSIBLY A DANCE.

- 9- HAVE THE 10 YEARS OLD AND UP - SUNDAY AND ARMENIAN SCHOOL CHILDREN COME UP, ONCE A MONTH AND SING IN THE CHOIR.
- 10- HAVE MORE EDUCATIONAL GATHERINGS (PROGRAMS) FOR OUR PARISHIONERS.

I ONLY ASK YOU TO SUPPORT ME IN ANY WAY YOU CAN. AND I KNOW MOST OF YOU WILL. AS I LOOK BACK, ON THE LAST 6 YEARS, IN EVERYTHING, IN EVERY GOOD PROJECT THAT WAS DONE OR FULFILLED I SEE YOUR SUPPORT. SO PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT YOUR PASTOR AND PARISH COUNCIL.

IN 1989, I AM HAPPY TO INFORM YOU THAT I WAS ACTIVELY INVOLVED WITH THE TRUMBULL CLERGYMEN - BY ATTENDING THEIR LUNCHEONS AND MEETINGS AND ALSO BY MAKING OUR CHURCH A MEMBER OF THE TRUMBULL INTERFAITH COMMITTEE.

MY CONTACTS WITH THESE CLERGY SHOWED ME HOW LITTLE THEY KNOW ABOUT OUR CHURCH, PEOPLE AND CULTURE.

IN THE FALL, ADDRESSING THE 1200 BRIDGEPORT SCHOOL'S TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS WAS ANOTHER EXPERIENCE FOR ME. IT WAS THE OPENING SESSION OF THE SCHOOL YEAR AND I WAS INVITED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE BRIDGEPORT SCHOOL SYSTEM.

AT THE DIOCESAN LEVEL I WAS HAPPY TO BE PART OF THE PRIMATE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE. I WAS HAPPY TO SEE THAT OUR PARISH WAS REPRESENTED BY A DOZEN PARISHIONERS TO HIS EMINENCE'S BANQUET ON JAN. 28, 1990. THAT WAS THE LEAST THAT WE COULD HAVE DONE, FOR A MAN WHO HAS SERVED OUR CHURCH FOR 50 YEARS AND LEAD THIS DIOCESE FOR 25 YEARS.

I WAS VERY DISAPPOINTED TO SEE ONLY A FEW PEOPLE ATTENDING THE CANDLELIGHT VIGIL AT THE SOVIET MISSION IN NEW YORK AND THE ECUMENICAL MEMORIAL SERVICE AT ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL WHERE CARDINAL JOHN O'CONNOR AND NEWLY ELECTED MAYOR DINKINS ADDRESS THE PEOPLE.

OUR PEOPLE ARE BEING KILLED. TODAY THE 1915 GENOCIDE IS BEING REPEATED. ATTENDING TO A MARCH OR A MEMORIAL SERVICE, FAR AWAY FROM OUR HOMELAND AND KARABAGH IS THE LEAST WE CAN DO FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS. ( I HAD ANOTHER DISAPPOINTMENT WHEN ON CHRISTMAS SUNDAY, WE COLLECTED ONLY \$147.00 FOR A NEEDY ARMENIAN FAMILY).

ON THE OTHER HAND I EXPRESS MY JOY AND WORDS OF APPRECIATION TO YOU, FOR RAISING \$127,118.22 WITH THE EARTHQUAKE RELIEF COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THE VICTIMS. I KNOW HOW YOU ALL WORKED. YOU SHOULD BE PROUD TO PUT YOUR PARISH IN 7TH PLACE, IN OUR ENTIRE DIOCESE. I THANK ALL THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR ALL THEIR SERVICES. I ALSO THANK ALL THOSE WHO TOOK CARE OF THE INJURED VICTIMS THAT CAME TO OUR AREA HOSPITALS. THANK YOU FOR VISITING AND COMFORTING THEM. THE TOTAL AMOUNT THAT WAS SENT TO THE DIOCESE WAS \$115,024.73. EXPENSES WERE \$12,093.49. UPON THE WISH OF THE MEMBERS, THE COMMITTEE WAS DISSOLVED AFTER THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY.

IN 1989, IT WAS GOOD TO HAVE A FEW NEW ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS:

- 1- FR. OSHAGAN'S YEREVAN CHORALE'S CONCERT IN JUNE, ORGANIZED BY OUR AND ST. JAMES ARMENIAN CHURCH.
- 2- THE TALENT SHOW IN APRIL
- 3- EDUCATIONAL LECTURES ORGANIZED BY THE ARMENIAN SCHOOL - FOR THE ENTIRE PARISH.
- 4- MY TALK ABOUT H. AJARIAN, A GREAT ARMENIAN LINGUIST AND ARMENOLOGIST TO THE ARMENIAN SCHOOL TEACHERS, ONE SATURDAY AFTERNOON.
- 5- EDUCATIONAL LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS DURING LENT AFTER PEACE AND REST SERVICE.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT DUES/PLEDGE/RENOVATIONS

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU SEE <sup>ANY</sup> ~~ANY~~ CONNECTION BETWEEN THESE THREE. BUT I SEE.

YOUR DUES AND PLEDGES MAKE UP 25% OF OUR BUDGET. AND ALMOST ALL OF THAT GOES FOR THE UPKEEP OF OUR BUILDINGS. THIS YEAR ALONE WE HAVE SPENT ALMOST \$15,000 FOR THINGS THAT YOU WOULDN'T EVEN NOTICE SUCH AS A NEW PUMP, NEW STAIRS FOR THE PARISH HOUSE, NEW FIRE OR SMOKE ALARMS ETC. SO, PLEASE MAKE YOUR PAYMENTS ON TIME. ALSO, IF YOU CAN INCREASE YOUR PLEDGES EVERY YEAR ACCORDING TO YOUR FINANCIAL ABILITY.

I THANK THOSE 85 FAMILIES FOR PLEDGING ALMOST \$40,000 TOWARDS THE CHURCH MORTGAGE AND THE 60 FAMILIES FOR GIVING OVER \$9,000 FOR A NEW PARISH CAR.

THE PAINTING AND HALL AND CLASSROOM DONORS WILL BE HONORED ON JUNE 3, 1990 AT THE BANQUET. I WON'T MENTION THEIR NAMES HERE. BUT I WANT TO SAY THAT, WE STILL HAVE THE PANTRYROOM KITCHEN TO SELL.

I WANT TO EXPRESS MY WORDS OF APPRECIATION TO LISA MISAKIAN AND GARY KHACHIAN FOR VISITING ARMENIA IN A VERY DIFFICULT TIME TO HELP, PHYSICALLY THE VICTIMS OF THE EARTHQUAKE. I ALSO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO CHARLES GOORHIGIAN FOR SHOWING INTEREST IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE. I HAVE GIVEN HIM BOOKS, HE HAS READ THEM AND RETURNED. BY MENTIONING THESE, I ONLY HOPE AND PRAY THAT MORE YOUNG PEOPLE WILL FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THESE THREE.

I THANK ARCHIE MISAKIAN AND RICHARD KALFAIAN, TWO PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS, FOR SERVING THE LAST 6 YEARS IN THE COUNCIL. MAY GOD BLESS THEM AND THEIR FAMILIES AND WE HOPE TO SEE THEM EVERY SUNDAY.

I THANK ELEANOR AND STANLEY ZYSK FOR TAKING CARE OF THE COFFEE HOURS FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS.

AGAIN, I THANK EACH ONE OF YOU - NO MATTER HOW LITTLE OR HOW MUCH YOU DID FOR OUR BELOVED CHURCH. IT IS NOT EASY FOR ME TO MENTION THE NAMES - THAT'S WHY I WILL NOT.

I EQUALLY LOVE YOU ALL AND EQUALLY THANK YOU ALL.

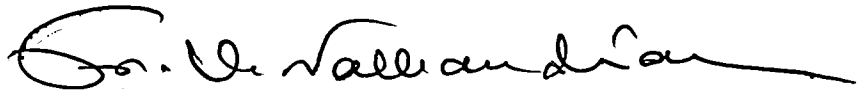
AT THE SUNSET OF THIS CENTURY AND WITH THE RAPIDLY CHANGING SOCIETY, IT'S THINKING, LIFE STYLE AND PRIORITIES FOR MANY, WE AS A CHURCH HAVE SO MUCH TO DO.

LET'S NOT WASTE OUR TIME BY DOING NOTHING OR BY ONLY GIVING ORDERS, GOOD ADVICE OR BY CRITIZING. THIS IS OUR MOTHER CHURCH. NO MATTER HOW WEAK, HOW POOR OUR MOTHER IS, WE STILL LOVE HER. THE SAME THING SHOULD APPLY HERE. WHEN YOU SEE THAT YOUR CHURCH IS WEAK AND NEEDS YOUR ASSISTANCE AND HELP, PLEASE EXTEND YOUR HELPING HANDS.

AND ONE MORE ADVICE - WHEN YOU DON'T AGREE WITH YOUR PASTOR OR ARE UNHAPPY WITH WHAT HE SAYS OR DOES, PLEASE DON'T GET MAD AT YOUR CHURCH. AFTER ALL, THE PASTORS COME AND GO, BUT THIS HOLY INSTITUTION STAYS. I DON'T WANT TO LOSE ANY ONE OF YOU FOR ANY SMALL OR BIG REASON.

I LOVE YOU ALL. AND I'M HERE TO SERVE YOU. I WON'T SAY LEAVE ME ALONE.... BUT I'LL SAY LET ME SERVE YOU.

THANK YOU.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Untzag Nalbandian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

FR. UNTZAG NALBANDIAN,

PASTOR