

Transfer

First there was the enormous task of moving and relocating in the middle of Winter. The physical, mental and emotional strain on oneself and one's family is terrific during this period of resettling and readjusting to another home and living in another environment.

Religious Services and Lectures

A) The Divine Liturgy (Soorp Badarak), which is the most important activity of this church, was celebrated regularly during the course of the year granting spiritual comfort to the faithful. The preparations for these services and the sermon for the day were done with regularity. The preparations for the sermon were especially time consuming. Aside from the sermons, I was called upon to speak at various other functions such as, ACYOA meetings; Ladies Aid meetings; at our church affairs during the course of the year, etc. The following lectures were given to the community.....1) Armenia, The Land and Its People 2) A Demonstration-Explanation of the Divine Liturgy Service.

B) Baptisms, Confirmations, Weddings & Funerals

The following were performed.....

- Baptisms - 1 in Racine, Wis.; 1 in West Allis, Wis.  
5 in Richmond
- Confirmations - 6 in Richmond
- Weddings - 4 in Richmond
- Funerals - 5 in Richmond

All of these required time to make the proper arrangements, such as rehearsals, short sermons or exhortations during the service and and consulatations as well as assistance to the parties involved.

C) Holy Communion and Church Songs.

The Sunday School Children and ACYOA Members received Holy Communion

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Pastoral Report-1967 - REV. ARSEN BARSACIAN

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regularly. Three boys are being taught to chant the deacon's part and one week during the past summer was devoted to familiarizing the children with the songs of the Badarak at which time they <sup>were</sup> told their meanings. The Junior Choir sang the Badarak songs for the rest of the summer on Sunday Mornings.

### Visitations-Consultations

My visitations were innumerable whether they were formal or informal; in person or over the the telephone. I used my car and telephone extensively to keep in constant contact with the parishoners for all types of purposes and all kinds of matters both pertaining to the church and its life and also personal problems. There were many visitations to the sick in the hospital, and in the homes.

### Meetings

As pastor, I presided over the meetings of the church organizations giving them assistance, guidance and moral support. In all I attended 43 meetings which is practically a meeting a week for the entire year. If you discount the summer months, this would mean more than one meeting per week.

### Printed Matter

The "Sevan Newsletter" was published periodically and special bulletins for Easter and Christmas as well as the Christmas Greeting Card. Announcements for the General Membership Meetings and also for some of our affairs were prepared and sent out. All of these were very time consuming, especially the "Sevan".

Arrangements were made with the local newspapers to have articles printed and pictures put in publicizing some of our community activities and traditions. Also the work involved with the new stencil machine: having it repaired and becoming familiar with how it operates.

### Community Affairs

Beside the lectures and talks previously mentioned, the following were done in the Richmond Community. I attended the 50th Anniversary of the Greek Orthodox Church representing our community at that affair and I attended the Richmond Clergy Association Meetings that take place once a month. I lectured to the Men's Group at the Greek Orthodox Church on selected Bible passages and I also lectured at the Church of the Redeemer Episcopal Church on Armenian National and Church History. I gave the invocation prayer and spoke at the dinner given in honor of the newly naturalized citizens and I appeared in a television program telling about Armenian Christmas. Most of these needed intensive preparatory work.

### Church Vestments and Articles

In this as in other matters, I continued the work begun by Der Boghos Manoukian. The church vestments were lengthened and the vestry renovated. A Memorial Stone honoring the 1915 Martyrs was engraved and mounted in the church vestibule. A Memorial Book containing a general history of the Armenian Church; the history of the Armenian Church in America and in Richmond; and also a brief summary of the 1915 Massacre, was made with a special cover and which presently can be found in the vestibule. A list of special donations to St. James Armenian Church is being prepared and will be inserted as a permanent part of the Memorial Book. A picture appropriate to the theme of the martyrdom is being painted and will be hung in the church vestibule upon completion. An inventory of all articles in and around the church is being prepared.

### Mission '67

Although this project took place in only one week, there were weeks and months of planning done prior to it to have the proper preparations ready for those who participated. The week of the mission was devoted entirely towards the success of this project.

### Future Plans

Cards containing the family history of each individual family living in the Richmond Area are going to be prepared and placed in a permanent file. We are going to need the full cooperation of everyone to complete this project. We are hopeful that the entire interior of the church and the church hall will be painted in the near future. I am planning to have some extra cabinets built for the vestry and choir room and also have kneelers put on the pews. I hope to expand my visitations to others this year to try and create a keener interest in our church. Last but not least, there is an immediate need for a church cultural hall. It is not a great task. It is no greater a challenge than the one confronting this community some ten years ago when plans were being formulated for the building of the church. People objected then that it was unrealistic and they are going to object vociferously now against it. The longer this matter is delayed the more difficult it is going to be to make it a realization. The Armenian Community in Richmond and Vicinity is capable of handling such a project today and it is badly needed.