

## Pastoral Report 1979

The Holy Eucharist is the center of all our church activities and life of the church. It is the source of our consolation and was celebrated every Sunday, even those Sundays that are vacation days and the Sunday I attend the Diocesan Assembly, for I didn't take a vacation last year nor did I attend the Diocesan Assembly. A spiritual message relevant to the celebration of the day was given in English and Armenian every week and also on other occasions such as weddings, funerals, baptisms, social/religious gatherings, meetings, programs, etc.

Visitations to the sick were extensive as to those who were shut-ins. Family visitations were done as much as time permitted.

Because of the nature of my work, much time is needed for reading, writing and studying. This aspect of my ministry was grossly neglected at times due to the overwhelming workload meeting the physical and financial needs of the church as will become apparent in this report and the lack of available volunteer manpower.

I presided over the meetings of all the important meetings of our church organizations. Their decisions entailed responsibilities that at times I took upon myself when there was no volunteers and the work was important enough that it had to be done.

I coordinated the activities of the organizations of the church to avoid conflict or minimize conflict as feasibly as possible. I organized a calendar of events of church activities. A regular reporting of the church activities together with various donations to the church as well as requested services appeared regularly in the Sevan.

I have been counsellor and advisor to members, non-members and friends of our community in varying situations.

I handled all the monies sent to the church during the week, be they donations, in lieu of flowers donations, contributions, etc. I marked

them and together with the bills arranged them so to make the burdensome duties of the Treasurer easier on Sundays. The Stewards were contacted and 400.00 was realized through this program.

I handled all the arrangements for altar flowers.

The following are some of the things that I did during the course of the year.....

-arranged the reception for Ani Kavafian, violin soloist with the Richmond Symphony

-attended inter-faith meetings discussing religious and social issues.

-attended hearings and served as witness upon request

-gave talks to church groups: Vartanantz Day Celebration; Greek Church Day Camp Group

-attended funeral service representing our church of noted dignitary at Greek Church

-investigated the possibility of having altar Gospel Book and Chalice to be cleaned, polished or replated and solicited donations for that purpose.

-investigated the possibility of having niches made next to the main altar and also appropriate oil paintings for them.

-correspondence in conjunction of procuring an art work piece of the Last Supper for the main altar.

-worked on the arrangements for a program on Martyr's Day that failed to materialize

-attended the Dooley-Madison Retirement Home Rededication Services

-attempted to arrange for another Dikran Jamgochian Chorale Group Concert with Virginia Commonwealth University

- organized the cultural program, "A Walk in the Garden of Armenian Culture-A Night With Hovhanness Toumanian"

-preparation and presentation of the slide-tape program given during the Bazaar days and the display on Aght'amar

-participation in the Joint Thanksgiving Day Service and attended the meetings in conjunction with that celebration at Beth El Temple

-organized our Church-Name Day Celebration dinner and program

-made arrangements to have the checking accounts of ACYOA Sr.'s and Jr.'s consolidated into one account

- arrange to have the checking account of the Choir transferred into my name when Susan Eramian was no longer able to care of it because of her moving to California. Presently the account has 181.17

-attended to the account of our Educational Fund which presently has 351.32

-publication of the Sevan Newsletter, Christmas Greetings List, and announcements such as the General Membership Meeting; Special Membership Meeting; Church Picnic; Feast of St. Mary, etc.

-arranged the choir robes so they were kept in proper order

-taught boys the deacon parts.

-articles printed in local newspapers about our Martyr's Day, St. Mary Feast Day, Thanksgiving, and Armenian Christmas

-arrangements with John Kolbe Co. to have purchased tables replaced

- attempted to organize a softball team

- work on booklet of our church history

-registered complaint with Richmond City Sanitation Dept. and had meeting with said supervisor and neighbor concerning litter on church property

-kept inventory list of church articles current

-clerical and secretarial duties of typing, filing and correspondence in Armenian and English

-preparation and mailing of questionnaire seeking volunteers to do secretarial work and supervision of maintenance in and around the church

-arranged to have water in church hall and kitchen floors cleaned-up

-defrosted and cleaned the freezer twice

-removed and replaced extras from the Boy's Club in the freezer

-had freezer door repaired twice

-twice cleaned up the store room on the side of the stage

-prepared the introductory remark to the Boy's Club booklet for the International Festival in Armenian and English

During the course of the year there were..

5 - funerals    3 - marriages    3 - baptisms

*S. Chupse Aghajyan*