

## ANNUAL REPORT

### 1995

The year 1994 was a year of success. For this reason I thank God. In January 94, I was assigned the Pastor of St. James Armenian Church of Richmond Virginia, by his eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian. In one year I was able to organize few Church organizations with the help and support of some dedicated members.

My primary concern was the participation of the youth in Church service and in community life. The newly established children's choir brought some enthusiasm to the children and the congregation. They learned to sing the Badarak and I named it the "Gomidas" choir. I also improved the ACYOA Jr. In 1994, I assigned a committee among the juniors to take some responsibilities upon themselves and to plan their own activities. I participated in all of their activities. They planned to meet once a month. The children raised \$800.00 in 1994.

People were in dire need to learn the Bible. In 1994 Ginna Dalton and myself planned a lecture series about the Holy Scripture and the Divine Liturgy. We had 25 attendants and it became the most successful educational program. I like to thank Mrs. Ginna Minasian Dalton. We really are lucky to have her among us. We will continue this program on March 2, every week on Thursdays at 7:30-8:30 p.m.

I also improved the Sevan Newsletter. Beside the community news, it was my intention to publish religious or cultural articles written by our community members, so it might become more interesting. In September, I assigned Raffi Bandazian, as the editor to work towards the betterment of Sevan. Working on a new computer, it took extra hours to publish. We are hoping that in 1995, we might be able to publish every two months.

I also improved the Church choir. I met with them every Thursdays for rehearsals. Today they sound better whether you are realizing it or not and I am very proud of them. They learned the Sun Raise Service which they will sing on Sundays during the Lent.

I started Deacons Training program where I trained/ am training altar servers. We meet on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Hopefully 4 new young adults altar servers will have in 1995 and 3 juniors as well.

The existence of the Armenian School was vital. In October 94, we started Armenian School. I assigned Dr. Diran Bezirjian as a Superintendent. We have almost 25 participants.

The need of Senior Citizen Group was necessary. We started our activities in October 94 and planned a wonderful program. There are 25 attendants in this program and I must say that I really enjoy their company greatly. My sincere appreciation to Rose Soghoian and Victoria Jamgochian, for organizing the group.

My sincere gratitude is extended to the Parish Council Members, whom I respect greatly. In the Parish council we have dedicated and experienced members. Working with them was a pleasure. I like to recognize the efforts of John Baronian, the chairman of the Parish Council, and all the Parish Council members. The parish Council always supported me whenever I was in need.

Thanks to the Women's Guild Members. The Women's Guild is very active organization in our community. In 94 the Women's Guild members donated us a washing machine and dryer and a Chinese rug. Thank you again.

I would like to recognize the efforts of Azniv Amirkhanian, who organized the Sunday School; especially by bringing the children all together as a group, and teaching them christian values. Azniv Amirkhanian was the Superintendent of the Sunday School in 1994. In March 95, Meline Kerneklian will take over of the Sunday School as the new Superintendent for a one year term.

Our Primatte Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, paid his pastoral visit to St. James Armenian Church in November and performed the Liturgy. The purpose of his visitation was to participate the Annual Choir Assembly, hosted by St. James Armenian Church of Richmond and to bestow the rank of Vartabed to me.