

## PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

1965

Dear Parishioners,

With the help of our Lord, our parish enjoyed a successful and busy year during 1965. The following is a recounting of the principal activities.

### CHURCH SERVICES

During 1965, 45 Divine Liturgy services were celebrated. During the five Sundays of Lent the Jashou Service was conducted together with special Matins (Sunrise Services). During my absence while representing our Diocese in Holy Etchmiadzin, there were two visiting celebrants who were Reverend Vertanes Papazian on October 31st and Reverend Levon Arakelian on November 7th. During the year, Arch Deacon Khosrof Khosrofian and Arch Deacon Ashod Krikorian have participated in church services and given unselfishly of themselves for the glorification of our Lord. Deacon Gary Avedilian has faithfully and in a conscientious manner served at the Holy Altar. Deacon Caspar Kasparian has also assisted at the Altar. This year, as in the past, Mrs. Angele Barouyrian has continued each Sunday to prepare the "mass" (the bread which is distributed after each Divine Liturgy).

### CHURCH CHOIR

The choir has continued to render its important service in singing the beautiful hymns of our liturgy. Until July 1, 1965 the choir was under the capable leadership of Mr. Edward Sourian. On September 1, 1965 this responsibility was accepted by Arch Deacon Dr. Arra Avakian. Mrs. Lillian Kasparian has continued her services as organist. All the choir members have given freely of themselves so that our church services might be enhanced by the singing of the majestic music of the Badarak.

### FOR THE SANCTUARY

The Ladies Auxiliary had an Altar curtain made which is red on one side and violet on the other: the violet side is for use during Lent. The church was in need of such a curtain so that this donation was very appropriate.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Turmanian, in response to our suggestion, donated stained glass windows for the sanctuary and a stained glass window depicting the Holy Spirit for the circular window above the baptismal basin. Mr. & Mrs. Turmanian's gift was made with true Christian spirit and we are all grateful for this addition to the beauty of our church. At this juncture it is fitting to say a word

## PASTOR'S REPORT (continued)

about the selfless contribution of Mr. Mihran Mesrobian, the Church Architect who designed the stained glass windows. Mr. & Mrs. Turmanian made the donation in memory of their departed mother, Mrs. Helen Turmanian.

### SACRAMENTS

Six, baptisms, two weddings and five funerals were performed. One of the funerals took place in Baltimore and another in Richmond. In response to specific requests were performed four house blessings and seven grave blessing ceremonies.

### DIOCESAN DUTIES AND TRAVELS

On May 14-16, I participated in the annual diocesan assembly in Philadelphia together with Messrs. Dikran Koumjian and Caspar Kasparian, our church's lay delegates. On Labor Day weekend I participated in the ACYOA convention in New York City. From October 26 to November 13 I participated, as one of the delegates of the North American diocese, in the commemorative assembly in Holy Etchmiadzin in honor of the tenth anniversary of the ordination of His Holiness Vasken I. As a member of the Diocesan Council, I participated in each of the monthly council meetings in New York City.

### PASTORAL VISITS

The above journeys together with a week's vacation absented me from Washington for 32 days. During the remaining 334 days of the year, I made 361 pastoral visits as follows:

79 visits to sick parishioners in homes as well as various hospitals.

11 visits to homes of bereaved families.

21 visits in connection with church committee work and educational activities.

246 parish visits.

All the above visits were accomplished with my own automobile. The necessary repairs to my automobile were willingly made by the Parish Council Chairman, Mr. Haig Insdekian.

## PASTOR'S REPORT (continued)

### VISITORS

During the year I have tried to follow the bidding of St. Paul and within the bounds of my capability I have entertained clergymen and laymen who have been visitors from abroad and who were without transportation and strangers to the city.

### OFFICE DUTIES

I have continued as editor of the monthly church publication, The SHNORHALI, and have prepared each issue with the assistance of Mrs. Esther Krikorian and on occasion the help of Mrs. Clara Andonian, Mrs Mary Ann Basdekian, Mrs. Lillian Kasparian and Miss Mary Bogosian. I have tried my best to make the contents of the SHNORHALI interesting, informative and helpful to the membership of the parish. The parishioners should be aware that publishing the monthly newsletter involves an expense and should therefore make their appropriate contributions. I have personally prepared all the "Flyers" in Armenian and typed, mimeographed, addressed, and mailed them as well as assisting in the preparation of the "Flyers" in English. I have also prepared all Armenian correspondence between our parish and the diocesan office and other churches.

### LECTURES AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Having attended the Sunday School teachers' meetings, I have attempted to speak on various subjects concerning the Armenian Church. At the Ladies Auxiliary Anniversary celebration, the ACYOA Anniversary Luncheon and the Cultural Day Dinner, all held in the church auditorium, I wholeheartedly participated in the programs of the day.

In addition to the above I continue to have the responsibility for the Armenian School which I have borne almost alone during the past six years. I am happy that last year Mr. Sahag Dedeyan taught the evening class and also that we were able to organize children's classes with the assistance of the Ladies Auxiliary. Every Saturday morning from 10:00 am to noon three classes are held with Miss Mary Bogosian, Mr. Ashod Krikorian, Mr. Caspar Kasparian and myself as teachers. Parents should be aware of the importance of the Armenian School and should bring their children each Saturday thus helping their children to learn and also to advance Armenian education.

PASTOR'S REPORT (Continued)

ADVISORY DUTIES

I have maintained close contact with the chairmen and leaders of all the church bodies, either by telephone or in person, always trying to assist by helping resolve conflicts, giving guidance, bringing to mind governing rules, and aiding in overcoming problems. The work of the pastor covers a wide field and its demands are many; it is therefore not possible to expect equal success and achievement in every endeavor.

There may on occasion be tasks that are left undone or only partially accomplished and also from time to time problems may arise which seem too difficult to overcome. All this can be overcome however by unselfish devotion to duty by our parishioners. In this connection I want to commend the efforts of the chairman of the parish council, Mr. Haig Basdekian and all the other members of the parish council who in spite of their busy schedules have volunteered their time and effort to perform their duties as well as possible. During the past year the parish council vice chairman, Col. George Juskalian, was chairman of a Membership Committee and together with Mrs. Clara Andonian and Miss Alice Hintlian performed a valuable service. The committee merits our gratitude.

I hope 1966 will be a healthy and prosperous year for all of you and that you will, in the tradition of our forefathers, continue your good works in behalf of the church.

Karekin Dg. Vartabed Kazanjian