

PASTOR'S REPORT - 1978

With God's grace I have completed the second year as the Pastor of St. Mary's parish. I thank God for the opportunity to serve Him and His church. It was a good year, one filled with slow but measurable progress.

The following is a summary of my activities as your Parish Priest, which I humbly offer to God and to you.

A. SACRAMENTS & SERVICES

1. Divine Liturgy was celebrated regularly every Sunday. In my absence Deacon A. Krikorian and Mr. E. Sourian, choirmaster, conducted the morning services, together with the choir, the organist John Krikorian, and the altar servers (Gary Avedikian, Simon and Kegham Kumkumian, Levon Andonian). They have our deepest gratitude.

Sermons were delivered every Sunday in English and in Armenian either together or on alternate Sundays. Special services were also held according to our church calendar. The highlight of the Lenten Services were the Meditations that were offered by guest speakers. This practice will be continued.

2. Sacraments and Home Blessings. In 1978 we had 5 weddings, 6 Baptisms and 6 funerals. Hokehankist, grave site prayers and home blessings were held according to the requests made and as opportunities arose. Home visitations were made over 150 times and the sick in the hospitals and homes also were visited over 30 times.
3. Family and Individual Counseling. On over 60 occasions families and individuals were given special attention. As spiritual and general counseling are part of my duties I note with certain satisfaction the fact that by making myself available I was able to help those who needed and asked for help.
4. Social Services. As I indicated last year I extended the church's ministry in social services. To help newcomers to the community to adjust and find jobs and housing and take care of immigration problems, I made myself available. Through Project Reach Out I called a special meeting to formulate a more organized effort in this area. The committee submitted a report to the Parish Council for consideration and action. Unfortunately no action yet has been taken in that area.

The health care of the elderly, wills and adoptions and other miscellaneous needs also were given special attention.

B. OFFICE ACTIVITIES

1. Office Hours were kept throughout the year as much as possible. The telephone was used quite extensively to keep contact with the parishioners and the members of the community at large.
2. Publications. The Parish Monthly Paper, Shnorhali, was published seven times during the year. The content remained same with Armenian and English sections. Compared to last year more special bulletins, fliers were mailed for more effective communication. Lenten Companion Booklet and Annual Reports were also mailed out.

An added item is our Sunday Bulletin which is published weekly to contain each Sunday's announcement and current events. My thanks to John Krikorian who is helping me to put out the bulletin.

Our mailing list now includes over 650 addresses covering the Metropolitan Washington-Baltimore area. Compared to last year we have added over 250 new addresses on our mailing list.

3. Correspondence. In relation to official business of the church and my pastoral duties, correspondence was kept regularly and documented in the files.
4. Consultations. Effort was made to solicit ideas and suggestions through private and group consultations during and outside of the office hours. The subjects covered a variety of organizational and community matters.
5. Public Affairs. On several occasions I happily represented the Parish during public affairs and receptions and conveyed the good will of our parishioners according to the occasion. I was also invited to deliver lectures on several occasions.

C. ORGANIZATIONAL

1. Parish Council. The work of the Parish Council can be characterized as harmonious and productive. My special thanks to Miss Sirarpi Ohannessian who was kind enough to accept the challenge of the chairmanship. Through her undivided attention and dedication we were able to care for the needs of the church. She truly deserves our gratitude. Our thanks go also to the retiring members of the Council as well as to those who will remain to serve the Parish next year. The Parish Council met regularly twice a month, except during the summer months.

2. Auxiliary Organizations. I continued to work closely with the church organizations and presided over their regular and special meetings.

- Women's Guild. Carried its activities commendably. Our thanks to Mrs. Doris George, the Chairman of the Guild and her Executive Committee and each and everyone of the active workers for an exceptionally successful year.

- Choir. With great satisfaction we note the increased attendance of the choir members. Mrs. K. Andonian continues to teach the Sunday School the hymns of Divine Liturgy. After attending the St. Nersess Summer Program the following have started to take part at the altar: Ievon Andonian, Robert George-Hagopian, Kegham Kumkumian, Ara and Michael Sahakian and Vatche Tahmazian. Our thanks to all.

- Sunday School. Under the dedicated and capable leadership of Dr. Charles Kumkumian, Superintendent, the Church School continues to give the vital education our children need. Equally dedicated are the teachers who well deserve our thanks.

- Armenian School. I was happy to see the Parish Council accept the sponsorship of the school. With total support from our parishioners and organizations I hope we will continue to care for the ethnic-cultural education of our children. Our thanks both to the Educational Committee headed by Mrs. M. Brousalian and the teaching staff headed by Yeretzgin.

- A.C.Y.O. Productive, energetic, enthusiastic are the words that characterize the work and activities of our youth group. I am proud of them. We thank Mrs. A. Tashjian and Simon Kumkumian who accepted to become advisors.
- Hye Club. Already a year old Hye-Club has made a great impact on our Parish life. We thank Mr. M. Tashjian and his committee for making our youth activities attractive and enjoyable.
- Ararat Avak Society. Monthly gatherings continued to attract our parishioners for enjoyable afternoons. We thank Mrs. A. Kkmkumian, Mrs. Z. Onanian and Yeretzgin who have taken the responsibility to keep the group active.

D. MISCELLANEOUS

I. Summer Programs

- The success of last years Summer Study Conference inspired more of our A.C.Y.O. members to attend the St. Nersess program. Thanks to the encouragement of the Parish Council and Women's Guild, 12 of our youth attended the program.
- A Summer Retreat was held in our Belmar, N. J. residence with 18 of our A.C.Y.O. members attending. Together with the St. Nersess Program the Belmar experience brought the members closer and increased their motivation to help each other and the church.

2. Altar Care and Mas

With the help of Mrs. A. Baker, Mrs. Z. Onanian, Miss Sirarpi Ohannessian, Miss A. Manigian, Miss A. Kavookian and Mrs. J. Oskoian the altar received good care. We thank also the ladies who continuously have prepared and donated the Mass during the past year. May they continue their services in good health.

Prayerfully,

Rev. V. Kalayjian, Pastor

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Calendar Year 1978

The year 1978 was an active one for Saint Mary's Parish as a whole. Among the new developments two were of special significance. One was the decision by a Special Assembly held on June 16th to start the construction of the previously planned Annex to the church building. The other was the decision of the Parish Council to assume responsibility for the Armenian School of Greater Washington. Brief comments will be made on these before taking up other developments.

I Construction Project

Attached to this report are three documents: (a) minutes of the Special Assembly held on June 16, 1978; (b) the resolution passed at that meeting; and, (c) the letter from The Primate, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, approving the project. For the implementation of the resolutions of the June 16 meeting, the Parish Council has set up three committees to be responsible for: (a) Fund Raising, (b) Construction, and (c) Land Search. These committees started work immediately. A report on the activities of the Fund Raising Committee, together with a financial statement, is among the reports made to this Assembly. The Construction Committee has already received several bids from architectural firms for drawing up detailed plans for the new building. One of these plans, on the recommendations of the Construction Committee, has been approved by the Parish Council, and is being prepared by the selected firm. As soon as the plans are completed and approved by the Parish Council, ground breaking will start. We hope this will be in the next few months, funds and weather permitting.

II The Armenian School of Greater Washington

As reported by the Chairman of the School Committee, the Parish Council was asked by a group of parents at a meeting held on May 31, 1978, to assume responsibility for the Armenian School of Greater Washington for one year. After due consideration, the Parish Council acceded to the request, set up a School Committee, and the school started last October. Hitherto the school had been allowed the use of the facilities of Saint Mary's, and, in addition to fees, it had received a grant from A.G.B.U. This grant has been generously continued by A.G.B.U. for the present year. The school has also received generous support from the Women's Guild of Saint Mary's, which donated the proceeds of its Christmas Luncheon to the school, and from A.C.Y.O. which donated the proceeds of a bake sale. We are grateful for all these and other gifts, and thank the donors.

The school has nearly doubled its enrollment in the brief period since last October. The decision to hold it for three hours on Saturdays rather than a briefer period after Church on Sundays seems to have been a wise one. The school appears to enjoy the interest and support of parents, several of whom have joined the staff, some donating their time. A very successful Christmas Hantes, organized by Yeretsgin Kalayjian, the Superintendent of the school and her staff, gave much pleasure to the community, many of whom made generous donations to the school on that occasion.

III Other Developments and Activities

The Parish had an unusual number of general assemblies this year. In addition to the Annual Assembly, the Parish was called together again to vote by secret ballot for the new Parish Council members since the initial election was done without secret voting and was disallowed by the Diocese. Another assembly was called on April 23 to discuss the election of a Primate, and a third, on June 16, to discuss the building project.

The bi-weekly (sometimes weekly) meetings of the Parish Council were devoted to the many facets of Parish life reflected in the reports made to this Assembly.

Among the more significant of these was a dinner which the Parish Council gave to honor all those members of the Women's Guild who had given twenty five years or more of service to Saint Mary's.

(The dinner was organized by the Women's Guild for the Parish Council).

A series of lectures by specialists of the Armenian Church and Armenian cultural history held in the spring was very well received and attended both by members of the Parish and by the wider Armenian community of greater Washington. (The series was coordinated by the Cultural Committee of Project Reach Out).

Other developments included the revision, by the Parish Council, of the fees paid for rentals of church facilities, something that should enable us to meet our rising expenses more easily next year. The Parish Council and the Women's Guild jointly increased their contribution towards the expenses of young people from the Parish attending Saint Nerses Seminary this year. Twelve students attended. The celebration of the Twenty Fifth Anniversary of Saint Mary's has been scheduled for March 3. It is to be held at the Fort Myer Officers' Club in Arlington, Virginia. The Primate will preside.

Maintenance problems received considerable attention, though much more is needed. The landscaping of the church grounds done by members of A.C.Y.O. has made a great improvement to their appearance, something which will be enhanced when the warm weather arrives. Other activity related to maintenance included repairs to the organ; the acquisition of two filing cabinets; repairs to the heating and kitchen facilities; to the front door of the hall; the roof of the rooms behind the altar; and other minor repairs. The Parish Council would like to thank the parishioners who generously assisted in these activities. A number of other attempts were made at improvements through getting estimates for various needs, but it was not possible to translate these into action.

The scope of this report does not permit the acknowledgement of all the donations, gifts, and services that Saint Mary's has received from parishioners. They are recorded elsewhere, but the Parish Council would like to extend its thanks to all for their generous contributions to the life of our Parish.

The healthy state of the finances of the Parish, the proposed Budget, the numerous activities of the church organizations (as well as more detail on some of the above developments) are described in other reports to the Assembly. On the whole the year has been a lively and fruitful one. It has been very gratifying to watch so many groups and individuals working together so well on such a variety of activities: from an exceptionally successful bazaar to a most enjoyable New Year's Eve party; from work with very young to the entertainment of our senior members. Growth in the membership of our Parish is reflected in the increased congregation at our Sunday services, though the number of committed voting members is as yet not as high as we would wish. We hope that the coming year will see not only an increase in this, but in the cooperative and sustained effort which has been such a positive characteristic of the Parish's activities this year, so that we may be able to accomplish the goals we have set before us for the future.

Respectfully submitted

Sirarpi Ohannessian
Parish Council Chairman

Minutes of the Special Parish Assembly
St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church
Friday, June 16, 1978

The special meeting of the Parish Assembly convened in the sanctuary at 8:30 pm. The meeting was called to order by Miss S. Ohannessian.

Rev. Vertanes Kalayjian led the parishioners in a prayer. Miss Ohannessian and Rev. Kalayjian made brief opening remarks explaining the purpose of the meeting.

The Parish Council Treasurer, Mr. J. Vartabedian, called the roll. It was determined that 54 members eligible to vote, constituting a quorum, were present.

In English, E. Onanian, Chairman of the Church's Space Committee, summarized the 10-year history of the Building Committee's activities and then briefly outlined the four options which were now available to the Church to meet its future space requirements. (See addendum #1) Mr. Jerry Hekimian then translated Dr. Onanian's remarks in Armenian.

A lengthy discussion followed on each of the four options which were proposed by the Space Committee.

A motion was made to purchase a house close to the church. This house would be used for Sunday school classes and other related purposes. This motion also included a clause calling for the establishment of a committee to search for land to be used for possible future expansion. The motion failed on a vote of 29 against, 28 for, with one abstention.

A second motion was made to tie the construction of a two-story addition to the church and renovations to the existing structure with the formation of a committee to search for land suitable to meet the long-term requirements of the parish. (See addendum #2).

This motion carried with the required two-thirds margin, the vote being 37 for, and 18 against.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Levon H. Garabedian, Parish Council Secretary.

ADDENDUM #1 - May 10, 1978

The Space Committee has considered the following solutions for the additional space needed for our church activities:

- A. Building an annex on the adjoining lot.
- B. Constructing a balcony above the entrance section of the sanctuary.
- C. Relocating the church on a new land and building a new sanctuary, social hall, classrooms, etc.
- D. Purchasing a house adjacent to the church. Houses in the immediate area of the church are selling for \$90,000 and over.

The following pages are the studies made by a professional architect, commissioned by us, for the first three solutions. The figures for a new building, at a new location, do not include the cost of the land or the sale proceeds of the present building. The land cost will vary, depending upon size, location, etc., with a minimum figure of \$100,000. The D. C. tax assessment of the church is \$300,000, and the market price should be well over that figure.

MOTION

- A. To authorize, under the conditions set forth below, the construction of a two story addition to our church on the adjacent lot and to authorize renovations in the church hall at a total cost of \$210,000 as set forth in the architect's plan.

Conditions:

The Parish Council shall appoint a Construction Committee which shall develop plans for the building and shall present them to the Parish Council for approval. Following the Parish Council's approval of the building plans, the Construction Committee shall secure construction bids, and shall make a recommendation regarding acceptance to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council shall enter into a contract for construction, but such action shall not be taken until sufficient funds have been raised by the Building Fund Committee to reduce the principal and interest payments on any necessary construction loans to \$8000. per year.

The Parish Council shall assign responsibility for oversight of the building contract to the Construction Committee, which shall report regularly to the Council. No changes in building plans shall be made without prior approval of the Parish Council.

The Building Fund Committee shall be assigned the responsibility of meeting the financial needs of this building project. In so doing, the Committee is authorized to establish, with the approval of the Parish Council, the contribution level which shall permit the designation of rooms in memory of an individual or individuals. The building itself may be named in memory of an individual or individuals, subject to the approval of the Parish Council, provided the donor contributes at least 50 percent of the total cost of construction.

B. Land-Search Committee

To authorize the Parish Council to appoint a committee to search for land suitable to meet the long-term needs of this parish. Such committee shall present its findings and recommendation to the Parish Council and, with the Council's approval, to a Special Parish Assembly at the earliest time possible. The Parish Council shall designate the Committee chairman. Further, any recommendation to the Special Assembly must be accompanied by a financial plan for the acquisition of the recommended property.

ADDENDUM #3A Letter of Confirmation

September 12, 1978

Dear Father Vertanes:

We are pleased to inform you and your Parish Council that the Diocesan Council and the Diocesan Board of Trustees have approved the construction of a two-story addition on the adjacent lot to St. Mary's Armenian Church at 4125 Fessenden St., Washington, DC 20016, according to the plans as prepared, at a cost of \$210,000.00 (two hundred ten thousand dollars), and that work should begin immediately.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MEMORANDUM

Memorandum of Understanding Between the
Parish Council of St. Mary's Armenian
Apostolic Church of Washington and
Reverend Vertanes Kalayjian

We agree that the following monetary and related considerations shall apply to Reverend Kalayjian's services as pastor of St. Mary's Church during the period set forth herein:

1. Stipend and allowances 1/

Basic Stipend	\$9,580.00
Service Increment	3,425.00
Membership Increment	685.00
Car Allowance	2,550.00

\$16,240.00 plus clergy insurance and IRA

1/The parish will assume the payment of all utility (heat, light, water, and telephone) expenses at the parish house.

Deductions will be made from Reverend Kalayjian's stipend at the rate of \$1,500 per year until the auto loan made to him in 1977 is repaid in full; the loan balance at the close of 1978 was \$3,075.00.

2. Vacation

In accord with the Diocesan vacation schedule, we agree that Reverend Kalayjian shall be allowed to take leave on two Sundays while on vacation. Leave may be accrued with the prior consent of the Parish Council.

In addition, he shall be allowed to take leave on the Sunday of the Diocesan Assembly weekend, provided his return to Washington for that day should prove inconvenient. A similar policy shall apply in the event he chooses to attend the AGYOA and/or Choir Assembly. An allowance shall be provided by the parish toward his lodging and travel expenses in the case of the Diocesan Assembly only. In the case of the Choir and/or AGYOA Assembly, it is expected that those organizations will provide a lodging and travel allowance.

This memorandum of understanding becomes effective on January 1, 1979, and continues through December 31, 1979, provided its financial conditions receive the approval of the Annual Parish Assembly.