

ST. MARY'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Annual Report 1985

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The St. Mary's Sunday School has 46 registered students for the 1985-86 year. Last year there were 56. The change reflects the shift of Armenian School language classes to Saturdays and the dropping out of some upper-grade students.

The teaching and auxiliary staff consists of: Miss Ann Kavookian, Mrs. Evelyn Vartabedian, Miss Susan Armen, Mrs. Rosemary Arkoian, Mrs. Anna Derderian, Mr. George Derderian, Dr. Edward Onanian. Dr. Charles Kumkumian serves as a substitute teacher. Miss Suzanne Manoojian and Miss Roxanne Kumkumian are teacher's aides. Miss Mary Vartabedian is responsible for programs and activities.

The "Family Worship Hour" for students and parishioners was instituted in late September. Each Sunday from 10:30 to 11:15 A.M., Rev. Vertanes Kalayjian conducts morning services and discusses the Bible and the Christian faith. Students then attend classes from 11:15 to 12:15. On the first Sunday of the month, "Communion Sunday," the students remain in the sanctuary after the "Family Worship Hour" for the Divine Liturgy and receive Holy Communion as a group. Two students read the Confession, in Armenian and English, while other students sing in the Choir, pass the Kiss of Peace and make the collection.

The curriculum and texts of the Sunday School are prepared by the Diocese. A collection of teaching and resource materials at St. Mary's provides additional information for the teachers. There is special emphasis this year on prayer, reading the Bible and active participation in the Divine Liturgy.

A number of students are enrolled in the new program for altar-servers and acolytes. They receive special instruction from Der Hayr and are scheduled to serve on specific Sundays over a period of time.

In the second half of the 1984-85 year, Sunday School students took part in the commemorative service on Martyrs' Day, with candlelighting, a procession, and the placing of flowers in a memorial wreath. During closing exercises in June, 21 students were given recognition for their excellent attendance records.

The Sunday School recently sponsored several charitable activities. A special collection was taken in Church by the Sunday School, totaling \$250., to benefit St. Mary's Charitable Fund, for this on-going need in the church-community. The Sunday School sponsored a drive to collect warm clothing, linens and personal items for donation to the shelters for the homeless in Washington, D.C. Two deliveries were made to the shelters, which house about 800 homeless people. Two anonymous donations totaling \$450. were also made to the shelters for the homeless.

"Open Class Day" was on Sunday, October 20th. Parents of Sunday School students were invited to observe classes or meet with the teachers after church services, to learn more about the Sunday School. We also encourage parents to ask students about their class lessons, read class materials and check the School bulletin-board for upcoming events.

The traditional Halloween Party was held on October 29th. Miss Mary Vartabedian and Mrs. Evelyn Vartabedian prepared and organized the activities.

The Christmas program was presented in the sanctuary after the Divine Liturgy on December 22nd. Sunday School students recited poetry and read about Christ's birth. Several students led the congregation in the singing of Christmas carols. Nine

students were also awarded gifts in recognition of the posters they drew which stressed the importance of the Sunday School. The program was followed by refreshments, and Santa Claus gave gifts to all students.

Zaven and Berj Kalayjian were given awards by the Diocese for their fine drawings on Armenian subjects, which were included in the 1986 Diocesan calendar.

Our thanks to the Women's Guild and Parish Council, which gave funds for the purchase of Sunday School books and classroom materials; Mr. Gary Avedikian, Bookstore Manager, who shared half the cost of the special purchase of Divine Liturgy books for the Sunday School's use; Mrs. Rita Bush, who donated \$100. to the Sunday School; Mr. Paul Kashmanian, who donated \$15.

On behalf of the Sunday School, I thank Der Hayr, the teachers, individuals and church organizations for their devoted efforts and financial assistance. The church community's interest and active participation in the Sunday School is needed throughout the year to instill and nurture our Christian heritage and faith not only in our youth but within the parish.

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. Anna Derderian
Superintendent

SUNDAY SCHOOL TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance January 1, 1985 \$243.16

Receipts

Gifts from Paul Kashmanian	\$ 15.00
Women's Guild	700.00
Parish Council	400.00
Children's Collection	266.60

\$1,381.60

Disbursements

\$1,624.76

Books & Supplies	714.62
Christmas Gifts (children & teachers)	70.00
Lenten Contribution to Diocese	50.00
Attendance Pins	147.60
Halloween Party	138.00
Liturgy Books for Sunday School	\$ 150.00

\$1,270.22

Balance Dec. 31, 1985 \$ 354.54

Ann Kavookian, Treasurer.