

Highlights from the Pastor's Report:

The total number of Armenians in Greater Detroit is approximately 15,000. This is based on 3,000 Armenian names found listed in the telephone directories; approximately 8,000 of which are connected with St. John's Armenian Church. We have a mailing list of 1370. The total membership for 1957 was 1,390.

During 1957 Divine Liturgy was celebrated 55 times. During the year special services were held each Wednesday evening during Lent; during Holy Week; and Christmas Eve. Also, noon day services were held in conjunction with the general meetings of the Ladies Auxiliary. Archdeacon Levon Zenian and Deacon Garo Papazian have shared my responsibility in preaching. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Archdeacons Harry Ekizian and Ara Haig, and Deacons Daniel Shahan and Khachig Semizian who have been present faithfully on Sundays.

During 1957 we had 123 baptisms and 5 confirmations; 49 weddings of which 17 were with non-Armenians; and 77 funerals.

During the year I made 232 sick calls. I am sorry to say that in many cases when the patient was near death I was called too late, the patient many times was already in a coma, at which time Holy Communion may not be administered.

129 special pastoral calls were made. On the occasions of Christmas and Easter, the Home of the Armenian Aged and Wayne County General Hospital at Eloise were visited, where we have approximately 30 Armenians.

This year, for the first time, our parishioners were called prior to my visit for blessing of the homes. I wish to thank Mrs. Helen Armodlian for her gracious help in making all these calls.

The number of persons who look to the Church for counseling increases. More persons have found that the Church is always there and ready to help them in their individual & family problems.

I have published the Jahagir (Torch-Bearer) each month throughout the year. Once again I would like to thank Mr. George Keurajian who for the past 6 years has donated the plates for this publication.

I have continued the weekly study and discussion group at my home. Presently, the group meets each Wednesday afternoon for two hours, they study the Catechism of the Armenian Church and the Gospel of St. Matthew. This group is made up of young married women.

During the year I have participated in the following: The clergymen's summer conference in Elbron, New Jersey, July 22-27; ACYOA Assembly in Boston, Mass, Aug.31-Sept2; I represented our Diocese with Rev.Vartan Megherian of New York at the National Council of Churdhes in St.Louis,Mo. on Dec.5, at which time our Diocese was unanimously accepted into the Council by 1500 delegates.

Highlights of Pastor's Report (Cont'd.)

From Dec. 6-8 I attended the annual Diocesan Assembly in Racine, Wisc.; from April 5-7 I attended the Mid-Western Religious Conference at East Lansing, Mich. sponsored by the ACYOA; whenever possible I have attended the meetings of the Detroit Pastor's Union and the Eastern Orthodox Clergymen's Association. On January 23, 1958 St. John's Armenian Church was unanimously accepted into the Detroit Council of Churches as the only authorized representative of the Armenian Church. I am on the Board of Directors of the Detroit Council of Churches.

Rev. Fr. Arnak Kasparian

Highlights from the Parish Council's Report

23 meetings were held during the year. Representatives were designated for the various church organizations.

We had the roofs of the Cultural Bldg. and the Church repaired; the Church was washed; an exhaust fan was put in the Church; the Church office was renovated and a separate heating unit was put in.

We participated in promoting the concert of Armenian music played by the Detroit Symphony orchestra and sponsored by the Detroit Armenian Cultural Association.

Mr. Garo Papazian was invited to Detroit as assistant to the pastor since Sept. 1957; and he will be ordained to priesthood on February 23, 1958 for our church.

A successful New Year's Eve Dance was given together with the Armenian National Hospital Association.

On April 28, 1957 a Madagh and Requiem Service was given in memory of our one million martyrs of 1915.

Dinners were given for the Choir and the Church School Teachers in appreciation of their services.

An Educational Committee was formed to keep our people informed and to enlighten non-Armenians concerning our religious heritage and tradition.

The weekly pledge system was organized to start in Jan. 1958. Because of the concentrated efforts of the committee, the pledge system has gotten off to a good start and we have 550 persons participating at the present time. This has brought about an increase in church members of 150 persons, which brings the total church membership up to 1,503.

Parish Council