

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PASTOR'S REPORT FOR 1959

By the grace of God we have completed another fruitful year. The Detroit Parish of the Armenian Church is the largest single parish in our Diocese of North America. It covers an area of approximately 30 miles in width and more than 30 miles in length (from Grosse Point to Livonia, and Pontiac to Wyandotte). An estimated 8,000 Armenians look to St. John's Armenian Church of Detroit for their spiritual and religious needs.

We have approximately 1400 voting members of which 1,146 are in good standing for 1959. We have 740 members under the pledge system and 406 who pay yearly dues. Over 80% of the aforementioned 406 pay only the minimum yearly dues of \$5.00 per person. We now have a mailing list of approximately 1,650.

During the year Divine Liturgy was celebrated 58 times, including services on Christmas and Easter Eves, Armenian Christmas (Jan. 6), December 25th, St. Stephen's Day, Vartanantz, and Maundy Thursday. The newly consecrated primate, Archbishop Sion Manogian was the celebrant on April 26th. Special mid-day services were held monthly prior to the meetings of the Women's Auxiliary. A special service in English was held on Christmas Eve, December 24th. Weekly Wednesday evening services were held during lent.

Our appreciation is extended to the choir and their leader, Archdeacon Harry Ekizian, the altar servers including Archdeacon Ara Haig, and Deacons Daniel Shahan, John Semizian, Mihran Hoplamazian, Hagop Asadourian, and Masa Caramanian.

I wish to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to my associate, the Rev. Fr. Diran Papazian with whom we have cordially worked in all matters concerning the St. John's Armenian Church of Detroit. Because of the lack of clergymen, the Primate has made temporary arrangements for Father Papazian to be in St. Louis, Illinois for the first week of the month, in Waukegan, Illinois the second and third weeks, and to be in Detroit for the fourth week of each month. When Father Papazian is in Detroit, I visit the Cleveland Parish and celebrate the Divine Liturgy there.

During 1959, 110 Baptisms were performed and 5 confirmations of older persons joining the Armenian Church. 28 marriages were blessed, 8 of which were with non-Armenians. 47 Funerals took place this year.

We have considered the visiting of the sick as one of our most important duties. We would like to report and emphasize the importance of our parishioners notifying the clergy whenever a person is sick.

We have endeavored, as much as possible, to pay visits to our parishioners on occasions of death, home blessing, pastoral or happy occasions. We have spent considerable time counselling our parishioners for personal or family problems. We have been happy to be able to help our parishioners in their problems.

We wish to thank Mr. George Keurajian for so generously donating the plates for our church publications including the Torch-Bearer, Church School letters, Armenian Apostolic letters and announcements and other notices.

We appreciate the efforts of Archdeacon Levon Zenian, director of the Church School who has given so devotedly of his time to further the spiritual growth of our children. Our appreciation also to all the church school teachers who give so freely of their time and efforts.

We also appreciate the efforts of Mrs. Nuvart Alexanian, director of the Armenian language School, who, with her staff of teachers, has undertaken the job of teaching our children with untiring devotion.

Highlights from the Pastor's Report for 1959 (Cont'd)

Besides presiding over the meetings of the various church organizations, we have represented the Armenian Church in the Detroit and Michigan Council of Churches, and also by request of the Primate we have represented him in the National Council of Churches.

We are happy to report that we have had various opportunities to acquaint our Church, its history and liturgy to non-Armenian groups sometimes going to their churches and on other occasions inviting them to our church.

The Parish Council is to be commended for fulfilling its duties with harmonious teamwork.

The Armenian Apostolic Society has gone ahead with its meetings and campaigning and has brought us closer to the beginning of our new church and school building. This work has gone ahead under the most capable leadership of Mr. Edward Mardigian who has given untiringly of his time, effort and enthusiasm for this project.

I pray that God may fill the minds and hearts of our congregation with the faith and grace of our forefathers, to be able to preserve our beloved church and make its life brighter and more secure.

Rev. Fr. Arnak Kasparian

St. John's Armenian Church - Detroit

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL'S REPORT OF ST. JOHN'S ARMENIAN CHURCH # 1959

Parish Council Members:

CHAIRMAN - Mr. Arshavir Yeghissian

Secretary- Mr. Simon Mozian

Treasurer- Mr. Edward Sarkisian

Membership- Mr. Haig Jizmejian

Armenian Cultural Bldg.- Mr. Martin Manoogian - Mr. Jack Mamassian

Records - Mr. Karl Sarafian

VICE-CHAIRMAN- Mr. Vahram Boyajian

Asst. Sec. - Mr. George Gargarian

Membership - Mr. Jack Kavlakian

Armenian Cultural Bldg.- Mr. Martin Manoogian - Mr. Jack Mamassian

Plates - Mr. Harabed Mikaelian

Twenty-five meetings were held during the year. Representatives were designated for the various organizations.

During the year joint meetings were held with the Armenian Apostolic Society and Diocesan Delegates, and two meetings were held with His Grace, Archbishop Sion Manoogian.

On April 25, 1959 a dinner was held in honor of His Grace, Archbishop Sion Manoogian on the occasion of his first visit to Detroit after his election to the office of Primate.

On April 26 a Madagh and Requiem Service was held in memory of the one million martyrs of 1915, presided over by the Archbishop.

The church supported the concert introducing Mr. Karl Karapetian as conductor at the Masonic Temple.

Financial support in the amount of \$200 was given to the Wayne State University Armenian Studies program. The Parish Council is active on the committee for the furtherance of this Armenian studies program at Wayne.

The Parish Council supported the Midwest Religious Education Conference held in East Lansing, Michigan.

Adirective was received from the Diocesan Office stating that \$7.00 per member be sent to them for their operating expenses. In return, each member or family shall receive a copy of "Hayastaniatz Yegeghetzi" or "The Armenian Church" publication, or both. Therefore, the Parish Council recommends that the minimum yearly dues be \$10.00 per person beginning in 1960.

Highlights from Parish Council Report for 1959 (Cont'd)

A committee was organized under the chairmanship of Mr. Edward Korkoian to sponsor a dinner to solicit funds for aid to Jerusalem. Unfortunately, the Very Rev. Hmayag Intoyan, representative of the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem, had to return to Jerusalem and the affair has been indefinitely postponed.

A successful New Year's Eve dance was given under the chairmanship of Mr. Martin Manoogian. This year, for the first time, the Parish Council undertook this affair alone, previously they had held this affair jointly with the Armenian National Hospital group.