

REPORT FOR 1967

PRAYER FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Grant, O Lord, that thy Holy Spirit may preside over us now in all our concerns and deliberations for the welfare of this parish. We thank thee for all the blessings for the past year, and pray that we may go together from strength to strength in the year before us. Help us all to dedicate ourselves to thee, and to be ready to make sacrifice of time and money for the extension of thy kingdom.

Guide us, we beseech thee, in the choice of our Parish Council, and may they discharge their duties faithfully.

We praise thee for these thy servants who labored and worshipped here before us, and especially for those who have departed this life since we last met together. Grant to them eternal rest, O Lord, and let thy perpetual shine upon them, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

Dear Parishioners:

By the Grace of God and the co-operation of our church members, we have completed another year. In Church life progress is measured by the awareness of its members of their spiritual needs. All of us are servants and have the duty in this parish to preserve the Armenian faith and national culture passing them on to our children. It gives me great pleasure to announce that the path taken by our parishioners gives us this assurance, that our religious life and culture is gradually being passed on to the younger generation. I would like in a very brief form to report to you the things which I have done last year as your pastor.

1. During the last year (we) offered the Divine Liturgy every Sunday taken great effort to see that services began on time. We also had special services during Lent. On one occasion Divine Liturgy was celebrated by a visiting Clergyman, Archbishop Sion Manogian, Primate. We also had a special 51st service of the Armenian Massacre followed by a dinner.

2. Visitations:

a. (I) have tried during the year to visit the sick and those who are in mourning, offering them spiritual advice. Special attention was paid to visiting the various hospitals: New Britain General Hospital, Veterans Hospital of Newington, Grace Street Hospital, Bristol, St. Francis, Millington State Hospital and the State Convalescent Hospital of Rockville. We would like our members to keep in mind the fact that we have no way of knowing when one enters an out of town hospital, therefore, each member should keep in mind that it is necessary to inform (me) when someone enters the hospital. Der Hayr has no other way of knowing of a persons illness and the family should not feel hurt if I failed to visit someone because I was not kept informed. I would like to stress that prayers for those ill in the hospital and also Holy Communion should play an important role in our daily lives.

3. Meetings

(I) have tried to be present and preside at all of the meetings of our various organizations and have been absent only when some pressing church work kept me away.

4. Lectures

- a. Series of lectures in Pawling, New York to an ACOA summer retreat.
- b. 7 lectures sponsored by the Mr & Mrs. Club during Lent.
- c. 1 lecture in Hartford.

During the year Fr. Michael attended and participated in: ACYOA Conference, Clergy Conference, Diocesan Assembly, Armenian Day Vet. ceremony and American Vet. ceremony, Midget Football League, & opened 3 City Council meetings and the Armenian League Scholarship Banquet.

5. Publications:

The Church Paper, "Loos", as well as all organization circulars and bulletins were done by Der Hayr and Yeretzgin. We would like to inform you that the income from the "Loos" has not covered our expenses. We urge all members who have not contributed to the paper to do so.

6. Armenian School

This year we have 6 Armenian Classes, 24 students. Our teachers are Mrs. Vartoochi Yessian, Miss Esgouhi Simonian, Mr. Harry Berberian, Garabed Zhamgouchian and Der Hayr.

Classes are held every Wednesday and Thursday afternoon and we feel that the Armenian School is quite successful this year. A great deal of thanks should go to these dedicated teachers who give their time and ability without any monetary recompense.

We did try to start a Saturday Armenian Class but in spite of the fact, ample notice was given no one showed up, therefore we were forced to abandon a Saturday class.

7.

7. We are pleased to announce that this year in the month of November we started our Junior ACYOA. Although they have not been organized long enough to give a report this year we feel we should give some information about our organization.

We have 9 members and 1 advisor, Mrs. Bagdasar Hovhannessian. The Chairman is Peter Simonian. The New Britain Chapter was host of a Regional Conference in December. Most of the members are enthusiastic supporters of this organization. We hope that all parents will encourage their children to become active members of this organization and we also strongly advise all our parishioners to support the various activities of our Junior ACYOA, because the future strength of our church will be coming from the youth of this organization.

8. In accordance with the proposal of our 1966 Parish assembly the inventory of the church articles has been completed by the committee. Most items inventoried have been given a diffident value. We are sorry due to the illness of Deacon Ghevont Der Margosian could not participate in this committee.

CONCLUSION

Here in a brief outline are some of the many duties I have performed during the year. There are many things left undone and certainly plenty of room for improvement in our parish. We would like to thank the church organizations, parish council and all of those who assisted us during the past year. A special thanks to our church deacons, choir leader, organists and choir and to our Sunday School director and teachers, Armenian School teachers, Ladies Aux. and Mr & Mrs. Club.

Also we would like to thank all of the many people who donated things to our church in the past year.

A special thanks to all of our dear parishioners who co-operated and supported me during the year, and without whose help we would not have had such a successful 1966.

Pray that God may grant me, his unworthy servant, Grace that I may with wisdom and dedication, complete another year for the glory of God and his church here on earth.