

ANNUAL REPORT  
DEACON-IN-CHARGE

By the grace and guidance of God the parish of the St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church of Chicago completed one more year of life with the Lord's blessings. In the absence of a full-time pastor, it is my privilege to report to you regarding the activities of our Church.

WORSHIP From January of the past year, up to the end of May, we continued to have our weekly Sunday services conducted by me, with occasional Badarak celebrated by Fr. Arsen of Waukegan. The Word of God was preached every Sunday. From the beginning of June the Parish has been fortunate to witness the Divine Liturgy every Sunday, celebrated by Father Vahrij Kazanjian, who was given the sole duty by the Primate to be the celebrant while he is furthering his studies in a college and St. Nersess Seminary in Evanston. Fr. Vahrij, on occasions, has also given the sermon, alternating with the Deacon-in-charge. He has also performed a few baptisms.

For weddings and funerals, either by request of the parties involved or by special arrangements, we have secured the services of Fr. Varoujan Kabaradjian of Evanston and Fr. Arsen Barsamian of Waukegan.

On special occasions we have had the privilege of the presence of His Grace the Most Rev. Archbishop Tiran, Dean of St. Nersess School, who has also preached the Word of God in our Church.

On various occasions students of the Seminary, Fr. Yeznik Chavdarian, Manuk Yilmazian, Haroutune Kasparian and Joseph Matosian also have participated in the worship services.

On behalf of the Parish Council and the entire congregation, we extend our gratitude to all clergymen and students for their services.

In 1963 there have been 9 baptisms, 5 weddings and 8 funerals performed in our Church.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP In 1963 the membership of our parish has had a very slight increase. It is truly hoped that 1964 will be a historic year for our Church in terms of an unprecedented increase in the membership and all parish activities. With God's guidance and grace this will come about.

EDUCATIONAL Monthly educational programs, begun in October 1962, continued up to June 1963, with lectures and films presented on the first Sunday of every month. After a brief recess we have already resumed these programs. The next monthly talk will be given on Sunday, February 16 at 8:00 PM by His Grace the Primate.

During this past year, we instituted an intensive course in Armenian language for beginners which was attended by an average of twenty (20) or more young men and women.

"LOOSAVORICH" The monthly bulletin of our Church "The Loosavorich" has continued its voluminous publication, bringing to our parishioners

not only news of community interest but also articles of educational and cultural nature. The tedious task of typing, mimeographing and mailing has been done by Violet Koresian and May Nahabedian with admirable dedication for which they deserve the unreserved appreciation of us all.

AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS In 1963 another innovation was the formation of a Junior ACYO group with ~~the~~ membership of about ten or twelve teen-agers, having the opportunity to get together and work, learn and play together. The chairman is David Abajian.

The ACYO Sr's having completed a successful year of activities after their rejuvenation as a chapter have won the trust of the rest of the chapters in the Diocese and at the Annual Assembly in Montreal were voted upon to ~~be~~ host the next Assembly, which will be held in Chicago during the Labor Day week-end. Both Sr's and Jr's need and welcome more members in order to make the group grow in all its four-fold activities, in spiritual, educational, social and athletic directions. Peter Klujian is the chairman of the Chapter and Martin Cholakian of the Assembly Committee.

THE ARMENIAN SCHOOL having completed a successful year resumed in October after the summer recess and presently has over thirty (30) students and three competent teachers, with a period of instruction of two hours on Saturday mornings: The instructors are Mrs. Lucy Karegian, Manuk Yilmazian and Haroutune Kasparian.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL has been functioning in a more satisfactory manner with the kind services of Martin Cholakian, Miss Rose Paloian, Haroutune Kasparian, Mrs. Sadie Marcantonio and Miss Beatrice Erkiletian. The total number of our registered students is 24. *Our thanks to the instruct.*

THE CHOIR has for some months had the services of Paul Chobanian in directing the choir. Our servers at the altar, as well as the members, have brought their faithful participation in the singing and worship. Our appreciation to all of them.

THE YOUNG LADIES GUILD has completed a year of fairly active period under the chairmanship of Mrs. Ann Kazarian. The present chair-lady is Mrs. ~~Oliver~~ George. It is necessary that we increase the membership of this fine organization.

THE CENTRAL LADIES AUXILIARY under the chairmanship of Mrs. Filore Zinakorjian and the NORTHWEST LADIES AID with Mrs. Lucy Karegian as its chair-lady have continued their activity and service to the Church.

INTRA-CHURCH Representing our Church, I have had the privilege of attending the Annual Sunday School Superintendents Conference in New York City in April, the Diocesan Assembly in Troy, in May and the ACYOA Assembly in Montreal, Canada, over the Labor Day week-end.

NEW CHURCH It is gratifying to see that great headway has been made in our new church project. The Building Committee, headed by Haig Pedian and the Parish Council, chaired by Kaz Kazarian, though small in number, have worked diligently to see that the work of the building goes on. A fuller participation is necessary on the part of every member of the congregation in the fund raising and the

support of this noble project, that of erecting a worthy and beautiful house of worship for God's glory. God being with us the new Church building will be completed by August. Do give more of your support and prayers.

RECOMMENDATIONS Even if the physical building of the church was built next Sunday by some miracle, we still lack the spiritual church. The number one need of our Church is interest and concern, faith and dedication, members, new members, more members who would consider the Church their second home and attend to its growing needs. More life and fire is needed in this ~~community~~ *community* *order to make it a living* and vital church full of spirit and fellowship.

I recommend that we increase our pledges to the Church by 50% this year, realizing fully that its needs have grown more and more.

My strongest recommendation is that a full-time pastor be secured immediately by presenting a special request to our Diocesan Primate.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT In closing, I extend my gratitude and appreciation to the members of all Church organizations, the Building Committee, the Parish Council, the altar-servers and everyone who in some way is connected with the St. Gregory the Illuminator Church and brings his share and participation of support and service for the strengthening of the Church, fostering Christian fellowship and helping in the establishment of the Kingdom of God.

May God guide our steps in His path of service, and grant all of us His spiritual blessings. Amen.

Deacon Hovhannes Kasparian

February 2, 1964