

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

DEACON HOVHANNES KASPARIAN

Since the beginning of August 1962, it has been my duty and privilege to serve in St. Gregory the Illuminator Church as the Deacon-in-charge in the absence of a priest.

During this time I have concentrated on rejuvenating the following groups with the valuable assistance of a handful of devoted individuals:

The Armenian School

The Sunday School

The Armenian Church Youth Organization of America (ACYOA)

The Choir

Today you will hear reports from each of these groups. I would just like to point out that the result of the efforts and work done in these groups will multiply if more people participate in them.

We have had regular church services every Sunday, with Divine Liturgy being celebrated once a month by the Rev. Fr. Arsen Barsamian of Waukegan, Illinois. On other Sundays, Morning Service and Jashoo Service have been conducted with sermon given in both languages. We acknowledge gratefully the presence of His Grace Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan, who has conducted these services twice a month and continues to do so.

I am happy to say that besides the activities in the above mentioned organizations, I have also conducted monthly cultural and educational programs for the purpose of acquainting our youth and adult members with the rich spiritual and cultural heritage of our people. In keeping with this purpose, effort has been made to include more and more educational articles in our parish paper and thus make it an interesting publication and a welcome guest in the homes of our parishioners and friends. I hope you are also pleased with the new cover of "The Loosavorich".

While the parish seems to be in a renewed and rejuvenated period of

activities, there is a great deal more to be done in order to build up the community and make the Church a vital part of our life by increasing the number of active members.

May I suggest, that today we also focus our attention upon the financial condition of the Church. For the spiritual and educational work of the Church and the adequate maintenance of the building, the Church needs a great deal more steady financial income than what it presently has. I appeal to your noble sense of generosity and ask that you increase your pledges for the financial support of the Church, our Spiritual Mother, so that she will be able to discharge her essential duties without other concerns.

I am happy to state that we are planning to start a Junior branch of the ACYOA for boys and girls 14 to 18 years of age, in order to organize them into an active group so that they will not only be together, but will learn about our Church and culture.

We are also proposing to start an Armenian class for young people and adults for the purpose of teaching them reading, writing and conversational Armenian. These weekly classes are open to all.

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 your steps in His path of service and grant all of you His spiritual blessings.

February 17, 1963