

PARISH PRIEST
VERY REV. VAHRIJ KAZANDJIAN
ANNUAL REPORT

Thanks be to God for the completion of the second successful year in our new building. With God's mercy and your help we have ended another year of fruitful service, bringing our plans to conclusion or closer fulfillment.

This will be a short report on the work done during the past year.

SERVICES AND SACRAMENTS.....During 1965, 11 baptisms and confirmations were performed. 19 funerals were conducted. Grateful acknowledgement is extended to the families who made it possible for friends and relatives to contribute in part or totally to our church building fund in lieu of flower donations.

Hokehankist, or requiem services, were performed following Badarak upon request of parishioners, usually on the 40th day, or first year of passing of loved ones.

On the occasion of the Massacre Memorial Day, April 24th, General Hokehankist was held for all Armenian Martyrs massacred in 1915. Upon request, graves were blessed on Memorial Day and other times.

MEETINGS.....As President of the Parish Council and all the other subsidiary organizations of the church, I have presided over all the meetings, except whenever it has been impossible to do so. Overall, I have attended 100 meetings. I have met with the Parish Council more than 20 times at official and special meetings.

PASTORAL VISITATIONS AND CALLS.....Pastoral visitations and calls refer to sick calls at home and hospitals, (including some emergency communions)

home blessings, attendance at public and private functions, sympathy calls, visits to homes, or places of business throughout the year. These functions were performed as much as circumstances permitted.

FUNERAL.....The Pastor calls upon the family whenever possible, personally or by phone, to offer consolation and to assist in funeral arrangements. The evening prior to the day of the funeral, a chapel service is held at the funeral home. The day of the funeral, church services are conducted and the eulogy delivered by the Pastor, and the interment at the cemetery. Afterwhich, the Pastor attends the "Hokejash" to bless the memorial meal. Sympathy calls are made, if possible, within 40 days following the burial; whenever the family requests, graves are blessed, usually on the 40th day and 1st year. During last year 19 funerals were performed.

MARRIAGE-BETHROTHAL.....ceremonies are performed upon request. Rehearsals for the marriage are conducted by the Pastor. The Pastor is present to bless the wedding feast and to share the happiness of the families. Messages, if deemed necessary, are delivered by the Pastor at each wedding. In 1965, 1 bethrothal ceremony and 3 wedding services were conducted.

CHRISTENING.....The Pastor gives an explanation concerning the significance of the sacrament of Baptism and Confirmation whenever he deems it necessary. He often conducts parts of the ceremony in English at the invitation of the family. He attends the gathering for the occasion.

WORSHIP.....Divine Liturgy was celebrated each Sunday except during the Diocesan Convention held at SS Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church in Philadelphia; September 5th, the Annual ACYOA Assembly in New York, and on

Sundays where it was impossible to celebrate Divine Liturgy because of lack of assistance to the Pastor on the altar.

In addition to Sunday worship, Holy Badarak was celebrated on Armenian Christmas Eve (Saturday, January 8th,) and Easter Eve (April 16th).

Confession and Holy Communion Services were administered to the children of both the Armenian and Sunday School on January 8th, and April 16th, which were followed by breakfast by arrangement of the Pastor.

Besides Holy Badarak special church services were held on various occasions. Sunrise and Midday services were offered on Lenten Sundays. Holy Week observances were conducted with VODUNLUVA (feet washing ceremony) MAUNDY THURSDAY Evening, TREORE SERVICE (Crucifixion of Christ) and TAGHOOM (Burial of Christ) on Good Friday Evening.

Grape blessing ceremony was performed on the feast of the Assumption of the Holy Virgin Mary both at church and the picnic grounds.

Pontifical Prayer Services were offered on various occasions according to our church calendar, such as the Name Day and Anniversary of the Consecration of His Holiness, Lord, Lord, Vasken I, Catholicos of All Armenians and on the Feast of Holy Etchmiadzin, October 2nd, which marked the 10th Anniversary of His Holiness' Ordination as Catholicos of All Armenians. These occasions were celebrated with special services.

Our major holidays were observed with great solemnity and attended by an overflowing congregations. Special mention should be made of Armenian Christmas, Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

The Pastor and Parish Council extended a special invitation to Archbishop Sion Manoogian, on July 4th, Primate of our Diocese, who came to Chicago to consecrate the new Baptismal Font and the new paintings of SS Stevens and Gregory of the side altars of our Church. On this same occasion by arrangement of the Pastor, the Primate granted the right to wear an "ourar" to our Deacons and the first four degrees of an Acolyte to the 11 young men in our Church Choir.

April 24, 1965 marked the 50th Anniversary of the Armenian Martyrs. This solemn occasion was commemorated with seriousness and dignity, with the combined efforts of the four Chicago Armenian Churches on April 25th, 1965. A special program appropriate to this occasion was presented to more than 400 Armenian men and women of Chicago and vicinity.

VISITING CLERGY.....The Very Rev. Komidas Badverian, Pastor of St. Shoghaghat Church of St. Louis, celebrated the Divine Liturgy on July 4th, 1965.

Archbishop Sion Manoogian, Primate of the Armenian Diocese, presided over the Divine Liturgy Services, consecrated the Baptismal Font, and Paintings on the side altars and delivered the sermon on July 4th, 1965.

Bishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate of the Armenian Diocese of California presided over the Divine Liturgy Celebration and delivered the sermon on June 27th, 1965.

Father Arnak Kasparian, visited our church and was present at the celebration of Divine Liturgy on June 27th, 1965.

Deacon Kevork Kevorkian of Connecticut was present at the celebration of Divine Liturgy on June 13, 1965.

Occasionally Deacon H. Kasparian was present at the celebration of Divine Liturgy and delivered the day's sermon.

Patriarch Shmohk Kaloustian, Patriarch of All Armenians in Turkey, presided over the services on October 17, 1966, and delivered the day's sermon.

Archbishop Sion Manoogian, celebrated Divine Liturgy on the First Anniversary of the Consecration of our Church and delivered the day's sermon, and after which presided over the First Anniversary Banquet in the Church Hall.

Rev. Father Vertanes Derderian of Yeshilgoy, Turkey, celebrated Divine Liturgy on October 17, 1966.

PARISH BULLETIN.....The Parish Bulletin past year was published every month systematically as last year. This year too, we have strived to make it an interesting newsletter of the church life, by printing ecclesiastical, religious and national articles in it.

I would like to express special thanks to Miss Rose Zinakorjian, the typist, for her invaluable work in the publication of the Bulletin, and also to the Dispatch Committee and the reporters of the Bulletin.

SUNDAY SCHOOL.....Ten more children were added to the numbers of students at our Sunday School. We have now approximately 50 registered students, 35 of them attending regularly. They have their confession and communion the Saturdays preceding Easter and Armenian Christmas and their Annual Program on Armenian Christmas.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation of the wonderful work the Sunday School teachers have done the last year. My thanks go to assistant superintendent, Mrs. Steve Tootoocian, and the teachers of the Sunday School, all of whom are doing their best to achieve our goals.

ACOLYTES' CLASS.....All of our Junior ACYOA male members serve as acolytes, assisting the Pastor on the Altar by holding candles and performing other indispensable services. All of them were granted the four tanks of an acolyte. One of them is performing the parts of a deacon, by doing "pourvar" at the Altar. All of them are to be praised for the sense of responsibility and seriousness they have shown in their duties.

THE CHOIR.....Our Choir needs a Choirleader. I wish to thank all the members of the Choir and the Organist for their loyal service to our Church.

YOUNG WOMEN'S GUILD - WOMEN'S AUXILIARY - ACYOA SENIORS and JUNIORS
I have presided over their meetings and whenever necessary, given leadership and guidance.

Respectfully submitted,

Very Rev. Vahrij Kazandjian
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Pastor
St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church

February 6, 1966