
PASTOR'S REPORT FOR 1981

Chicago, Illinois
February 14, 1982

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ST. GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR ARMENIAN CHURCH

6700 WEST DIVERSEY AVENUE, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60635 TEL: (312) 637-1711

Dear Parish Members:

Four years ago, I was assigned by His Eminence, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate of the Armenian Church of North America, to my first parish in the United States of America, at St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church of Greater Chicagoland.

YOU welcomed me with open arms, love, and understanding. YOUR hearts and homes were opened to me. You made me part of your happy family. For all of these kind and thoughtful considerations, I am most appreciative.

During my tenure as your religious leader, I did my very best. In all of my endeavors, the betterment of St. Gregory the Illuminator Church was uppermost in my mind.

Our accomplishments were a team effort of dedicated and devoted members of our small but productive spiritual family.

I extend to the following my gratitude for their efforts and sacrifice for the good of St. Gregory's Parish. They are the ones who are investing their God-given talents, time, and material resources to bring back home the qualities of our beloved ancestors;

All members of the Parish Council, who day and night continue to serve the Parish with the best of their abilities;

Church-affiliated bodies and organizations, namely, Ladies' and Women's Guilds; ACYOA'S; Sunday School; and, especially, the church choir, its choirmaster, Violet Koresian; organist Georgette Mrofcza; longtime Altar Server, Kegham Parsegian; members of the choir and Altar Servers, who, by

their love and unselfish services continue to be the consolation to their people and the Church;

All those individuals who served on various parish functions and affairs;

All those dedicated members who took loving care of this building. Special thanks must be given to Mr. Peter Klujian and Mr. Shahen Temirian for their professional guidance in gaining a new parish hall roof, which was badly in need of repair.

Mr. Bob Kalenian who, with his carpentry skills, devoted considerable of his time to much-needed repairs.

At St. Gregory's, there is no full-time administrator nor secretaries. We rely on our parishioners to accomplish these duties on a voluntary basis. We are fortunate that we have qualified and experienced members who willingly give their time and services in this important capacity. I mention with gratitude Violet Koresian, long-time Parish Secretary, and my two loyal and effective unclaimed gems, namely, the Yeksigian Sisters, Takouhie and Arsholoos. I will miss them all.

While our Parish is doing well, there should be a continuous reciprocal effort to improve the existing church organization and Parish programs. Continue to seek out new leaders. Insure that members serving on the Parish Council are sanctified, dedicated, and faithful, and have will and way to manage the complexities of our day to day activities.

Although it is imperative to give priority to our immediate programs, we cannot ignore our plans for the future. Serious thought should be given to organizing a "Young Couple Club" or association, to insure that married individuals in the 25 to 35-year age group, become more active in our church activities.

We are optimistic that our choir will continue to improve under the

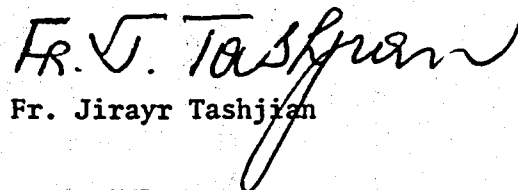
able mastership, musical and artistic direction of Dr. Hampar Yazijian, whose assignment was not only the wish of the Parish Council members, but also our untiring choir chairman, Mr. Sarkis Gurcikian, to whom we are all indebted. We have always to keep in mind that an excellent choir is the heart of the church, and insures more attendance during our Liturgical Services, and more exposition of our true Armenian Christian Spirit.

Our youth program requires more adult leadership. Make our youth activities attractive, not only socially and athletically, but also culturally and educationally, so that more of our young adults get involved in our Parish ministry. They are the ones who will link the past with our future.

It is with heavy heart that I leave for my new home in Paris, France. You have been very kind and considerate. You have given me many, many, happy memories, which I will always cherish. Although Chicago can be very cold in the winter, the Parishioners of St. Gregory offset it with their warmth and love.

May the grace of our Blessed Lord Jesus Christ, love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, continue to guide you in the days of your lives.

Respectfully,


Fr. Jirayr Tashjian

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CHURCH SERVICES:

Divine Liturgy 42 times

During Lent, March 2 - April 9

1. On Sundays, Matins, Penitential Office, Prime (Arevakal) and the Midday Service (Synaxis) conducted.
2. On every Thursday from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Lenten Peace and Rest Hours conducted.

REPOSE OF SOULS SERVICES (Hokehankist)

followed the Divine Liturgy, at the request of faithfuls 22 times

SACRAMENTS

Baptism and Confirmation 2
Holy Matrimony 1

FUNERALS

For the deceased members of the Parish, 9 funeral Services were conducted, out of which 2 were performed in the funeral chapels, at the request of the families.

CHURCH SERVICES RENDERED TO SS. JOACHIM AND ANNE PARISH IN PALOS HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS

Sundays: January 4
January 25
March 1
March 22
May 17
June 7
November 1
December 6
December 24 (Christmas Eve)

CHURCH SERVICES RENDERED TO HOLY SHOGHAGAT
IN BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS

Sunday - June 14

CHURCH SERVICES RENDERED TO HOLY TRINITY
IN TORONTO, CANADA

Sunday - February 8

Sunday - October 4

VISITING CLERGY

We had the honour and pleasure of having the services of the following Fathers and Brothers-in-Christ for the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and delivering the Sermon:

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate
Rev. Fr. Arten Ashjian
Very Rev. Fr. Asbed Balian
Very Rev. Fr. Varoojan Dz. Vart.
Kabarajian

Sunday, February 1
Sunday, February 22
Sunday, July 26
October 4

On May 8, upon the invitation of the Cultural Association of the Armenian community of Albuquerque, New Mexico, services were conducted in memory of the Armenian Genocide of 1915, together with a tree planting and dedication in the garden of the City Museum. During this 2-day visit, pastoral calls were made to the homes of the members of the Cultural Association.