
PASTOR'S REPORT FOR 1980

Chicago, Illinois
February 15, 1981

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ST. GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR ARMENIAN CHURCH

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We thank God, The Father, who gave us the graces of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, by which we continued to give consolation to the faithful during the past year, and wish you a very successful Annual Parish Assembly.

You are the ones who committed yourselves to perpetuate the spiritual and moral legacies of our beloved ancestors and, through you, to make the Church of Armenia an inspiring and living institution of the generations to come, always guiding your lives with the Christian principles and aspiring pattern of our parents who, in faith and in holiness set examples for us. "For loving God means obeying His commands, and His commands are not burdensome, for every child of God is victorious over the world. The victory that has triumphed over the world is our faith." (I John 5:3-4)

CHURCH SERVICES:

Divine Liturgy 37 times

During Lent, February 17 - March 27:

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.

CHURCH SERVICES - (Continued)

Repose of Souls Services, followed the Divine Liturgy,
by the request of faithfuls 40 times

Sacraments:

Baptism and Confirmation	10
Confirmation only	6
Matrimony	0

Funerals:

For the deceased members of the Parish, 11 funeral services were conducted out of which 3 were performed in the funeral chapels at the request of the families.

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

Sundays: February 3,
March 2,
June 22,
October 5,
November 16,
December 14.

CHURCH SERVICES RENDERED TO ST. GEORGE IN WAUKEGAN, ILLINOIS:

Maundy Thursday, April 3
Sunday, September 28

CHURCH SERVICES RENDERED TO HOLY TRINITY IN TORONTO, CANADA:

Sunday, May 4
Sunday, December 7

VISITING CLERGY

We had the honor and pleasure of the services of the following Fathers and Brothers-in-Christ for the Celebration of the Divine Liturgy and delivering the sermon:

Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan	Sunday, July 13
Very Reverend Father Y. Gizirian	Sunday, February 10
Very Reverend V. Kabarajian	Sunday, January 20
	and Thursday, April 24
Reverend Father Haik Donikian	Sunday, December 7

HOUSE CALLS

Upon the request of the faithfuls, the Pastor had the pleasure of visiting the homes of 42 parishioners for House Blessings on Armenian Christmas and Easter. The Pastor extends his appreciation to these parishioners for their invitations to their homes for these blessings.

SICK CALLS

At the request of parishioners, the Pastor made 10 hospital visits.

DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY AND CLERGY CONFERENCE

The Pastor attended the 78th Annual Assembly of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, hosted by St. Mary Armenian Church, Washington, D. C., from May 29 to May 31. Prior to the Assembly, the Pastor also attended a Clergy Conference, from May 27 to May 28, at the Franciscan Sisters Retreat Center, also in Washington.

ANNUAL VACATION

The Pastor took his vacation in the winter of 1980 from January 15 to February 15 to spend two weeks in Jerusalem and to attend the Armenian Christmas Celebration in the Holy Land. On his way back, he stopped over in Geneva, Milan, and Toronto to visit his Brothers-in-Christ and his former parishioners.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Upon the invitation of His Beatitude, the Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem, we spent another three weeks in the Holy Land, July 15 to August 11, and attended with the alumni of the Armenian Seminary of Jerusalem the celebration of the Bicentennial Birth of Patriarch

LEAVE OF ABSENCE - (Continued)

Zakaria, the founder of the Jerusalem Armenian Seminary; the 50th memorial of the re-organizer of the Seminary, Patriarch Yegishe Tourian; and the 140th anniversary of the founding of the above-mentioned Seminary.

From August 3 to August 10, we attended a seminar covering the subjects of the mission of our church today. During four of these days, the participants examined all the issues pertaining to our church life. There were four major subjects of discussion taking into consideration our church's educational, religious and national role in the past, and its liturgy, and arrived at the consensus to continue in the same direction of its age-long traditions and Christian spirit in today's diaspora environment.

On the way back, we stopped off at Athens, Greece, for a short visit and returned home on August 15.

The Pastor takes this opportunity to extend his appreciation to the members of the Parish Council and to its Chairman, Mr. Nishan Babikian; members of the Church Choir and Altar Servers and their Chairman, Mr. Sarkis Gircikian; Choirleader and Parish Secretary, Miss Violet Koresian; Organist, Mrs. Georgette Mrofcza; and to all Parish-affiliated Committees and organizations for their devoted and unstinted services to the welfare

of St. Gregory's Parish of Greater Chicago.

"Cry unto the Lord all ye lands; serve the Lord with gladness."

(Psalm 100)

Yours respectfully,

Hayr Jirayr Tashjian

Hayr Jirayr

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