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ST. GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR ARMENIAN CHURCH

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

PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

January 1, 1987 - December 31, 1987

Divine Liturgy	Chicago 42, Waukegan 1
Special Church Services	Chicago 18 (Sunrise and Evening
Baptism	1
Wedding	None
Funeral	7
Requiem Services	25, asked by 36 families, be-
	sides these, requiem services have been rendered on Mothers Day
	for the souls of all departed mothers, on Fathers Day for the
	souls of all departed fathers, on the anniversary day of Nairi
	Choir for the souls of all late clergies, deacons, and choir
	members who served in this church.
Visitations	Blessing of Homes 14, Hospitals
	Chicago 8, Waukegan 1 .

Participation in Meetings:

Parish Council 11, Ladies Auxiliary Seniors 4, Ladies Auxiliary Juniors 2, A.C.Y.O.A Seniors 2, Sunday School 5, Choir 1, Choir practices 3, April 24 Memorials Committee 4, Picnic Committee 6 .

Various Events and Affairs:

New Year's Evening gathering, organized by Women's Auxiliary.
February 15, Valentine's Day dinner at Candle Light Restaurant.
February 28, Eve of Lent (Poon Paregentan) Festivities, organized by Women's Guild.
During the period of Lent, every sunday sermons were delivered as lectures, in both English and Armenian Languages.
March 11, Saintes Day was observed with the participation of three parishes at Sts. Joachim and Anne Church in Palos Heights.
April 4, Deacon Micheal Findikyan, from St. Nersess Seminary of New York, directed a work-shop in this church and spoke about Holy Week, this work-shop was organized by our Nairi Choir. Next morning, on Sunday, Deacon Michael participated in our church services.
April 20, on behalf of this parish, I attended a dinner given in honour of His Eminence Archbishop Sion Manoogian, who was visiting Chicago.
April 24, Memorial Ceremonies was held with the participation of three parishes, in this church. A memorial dinner was given in the church hall, followed by a program. The guest speakers were; Mr. Stanley L. Davis, and Professor Shavarsh Tolekian.

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Pastor's Report continued;

On Tuesday May 12, I was admitted to Lutheran General Hospital, in Park Ridge, where I stayed until Thursday May 21. The following Sunday May 24, I celebrated Divine Liturgy in this church.

On Sunday May 31, A.C.Y.O.A members from midwest churches gathered in our church, and had a breakfast together.

In the month of June, we send three of our altar servants Raffi Hazarian, Ari Tchalışkan, and Hovsep Utash to New York, to participate in a week long lecturing and training program at Saint Nersess Armenian Seminary.

July 26, we had a group of visitors comprising of 30 persons, from Gospel Center Missionary Church of South Bend, Indiana, headed by their pastor, Dr. Thomas L. Murphy. They toured the church and received concise explanations, and informations about The Armenian Apostolic Church and of Saint Gregory The Illuminator.

On Monday evening of August 3, responding to their invitation Raffi Hazarian and I visited to St. Nicholas Albanian Church in Chicago, where in front of a multitude of people I read Gospel in Armenian.

On Sunday Feast of Exaltation of the Holy Cross September 13, after Divine Liturgy, we gave an explanation about our standing in the church. We briefly explained the time and the places where the congregation must stand, and the time and the places where the congregation is permitted to seat. This is done in both English and Armenian Languages.

September 21, I was admitted to St. Anthony Hospital of Crown Point, Indiana, for an open heart surgery, where I stayed three weeks, then I stayed home for recuperation. On Sunday November 15, I began to participate in Morning Services, on Sunday November 29, I celebrated Divine Liturgy. During the period of my absence, this church remained open on every Sunday, with the grace of faithful and devoted deacons and choir members of ours, who within the limitations of their authority, rendered Sunday services.

In the month of October, Lisitzian Sisters from Armenia, visited Chicago and they sang in our church hall before a large audience. November 12-14, we had with us Rev. Father Karnig Haladjian who celebrated Divine Liturgy, during which he briefly talked about utensils and vestments used in the church, demonstrating of their usage on himself. After church services a dinner was given in the hall, followed by a brief program.

On Sunday December 27, after Divine Liturgy a special service was rendered for the memory of the Protodeacon and First Martyr St. Stephen, followed by a brief reception in the hall.

In addition to the duties and works presented above; I have participated in a number of various activities, whenever my office has been called upon.

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Pastor's Report continued;

I attended for the opening ceremonies of Hye Camp, in Milwaukee. I participated in a wedding service at St. James Church of Evanston. I attended to the picnics of our sister churches. During the year, in four sessions, I have given certain lessons and practical informations to Ari Tchalishkan and Hovsep Utash for advancement of their skills and knowledge, that they can serve better at the altar. I have hosted of visiting clergies and laymen at my home, and accompanied to them during their stay in this city. I have taken of English lessons, a course which is offered for new-comers that I continue to take at Wright College of Chicago, to date.

I attach to this report my heartfelt gratitudes and appreciations to the members of this parish, to the Parish Council, and to the board of directors and members of all organizations of this church, for their patience and understanding, which I needed most.

This report is prepared for the Annual Parish Assembly of The St. Gregory The Illuminator Armenian Church of Chicago.

February 7, 1988
Chicago, Illinois

Fr. Vahram Hazarian
Pastor

