

PASTOR'S REPORT

January 28, 1973

When I arrived on March 17th, 1972, the following organizations were already functioning:

Parish Council
Choir
Ladies Society
Church School
Youth Group
Armenian School

CHURCH SCHOOL: Upon my arrival, I was asked by the Parish Council to work with the Church School. After meeting with Mr. Michael Ketchoyian, Superintendent, and the existing teaching staff, it was apparent that a new curriculum was essential. The new curriculum, as established by the Council for Religious Education of our Diocese, was instituted in early April, 1972. Since April, the Church School has had two teacher training programs sponsored by the Diocese and conducted by:

Louise Kalemkerian on April 25th, 1972, and

Danny Kochakian and Clara Takesian on November 4th, 1972.

At the present time, the Church School has four classes, but a fifth class is needed. In order to insure smoothness of operation and optimum learning for our children, we need more teachers and assistant teachers.

CHOIR: The choir felt a great loss after the death of its directoress, Lillian Mahakian.

Deacon Ray Arakelian acted as interim choir director from July through October, 1972.

In October, 1972, with the consent of the Pastor and Parish Council, Mr. Paul Ketchoyian was appointed choir director. We

pray that Paul will be able to build upon the foundation that Lillian has laid.

ARMENIAN SCHOOL: In April and May of 1972, I noticed there were only about half a dozen students in attendance.

After Armenian School closed, there were inquiries as to the possibility of having only a conversational class in Armenian. Therefore, I began looking for material for such a class and finally devised a conversational course.

In October, the Armenian School opened with 30 students enrolling---great enthusiasm from the students, but a deplorable response from possible teachers---none---at least for the month of October. I was forced to teach 30 students with insufficient knowledge of the language myself. Finally one person came forward and two more were found. The Armenian School still needs four assistant teachers to function properly.

Since mid November, attendance has decreased from 30 students to a meager 10 to 14 students per meeting. If this continues the school will close presently.

At present, Armenian School meets on Friday evenings from 7:00 to 8:15 p.m. One dollar per month per student is the donation.

LADIES SOCIETY: Anosh Dekmejian has been diligently doing the work of four people. Because of Anosh's diligence, the Ladies Society has seen an increase in participating members and activity.

With the continuing work of the new executive body and the co-operation of the members, we expect this organization to become one of our strongest and most active groups.

YOUTH GROUP: The Youth Group was, when I arrived, and still is, one of the most active groups under the direction of Marion Rejebian and all those who have been helping her.

The Youth Group has also seen an increase in its members, who will prayerfully develop a deep and lasting commitment to their Church.

Any persons interested in assisting Marion, please contact her.

PARISH COUNCIL: The Parish Council was expanded from five to seven members by a specially called Parish Meeting, in September, 1972, in order to meet the Church's increased work-load.

Remember, the Council can only function efficiently with proper backing from its Church members.

SACRAMENTS:

Baptisms (three)

Stephanie Susan Seraydarian
Krikor Nubar Astarjian
Corinne Anahid Fattal

Chrismations only (one)

Linda Rose Misakyan

Deaths (one)

Lillian B. Mahakian

PARISH ACTIVITIES:

1. On June 11, 1972, Deacon Hovhanness Kasparian showed slides and lectured on "Armenia."

2. In September, 1972, ^Aspecial Parish Meeting to increase Parish Council from five to ^Aseven members. ^{WAS CONVENED}

3. With the assistance of Mike Medzigian, on September 30, 1972, we took 12 of our youth to Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary to participate in the annual Orthodox Education Day. This gave our youngsters an opportunity to meet our seminarians studying theology and to make new friends as well.

4. On October 22, 1972, Mr. Harold Nahabedian showed us slides and lectured on "Jerusalem and the Holy Lands."

5. On November 4, 1972, Danny Kochakian lectured on "The Service of Vigil."

6. On November 17, 1972, approximately 60 people participated in "Family Game Night."

7. On November 22, 1972, the parish gave a Thanksgiving food basket to a needy family (Peck family, Binghamton).

8. On December 17, 1972, the parish invited approximately 20 youngsters from Susquehanna Valley Home, to be our guests at our annual Christmas program and buffet.

9. On December 22, 1972, the parish gave a Christmas food basket to a needy family (Rought family, Binghamton).

10. On December 24, 1972, the feast of Saint Stephen the first Proto-martyr and Deacon of the Church, was celebrated according to Church Tradition (Jerusalem style). After the celebration, Christmas Carols were sung by all members of the congregation.

Respectfully submitted this 28th day of January, 1973, by:

Deacon Ray Arakelian

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Deacon-in-Charge