

YOUTH GROUP ANNUAL REPORT

The Youth Group of St. Gregory Armenian Church in Binghamton was formed almost two and one half years ago and is still enthusiastically supported by twenty-seven wholesome boys and girls of whom we can all be justifiably proud.

In addition to having fun and strengthening their ties of religious and cultural identity, they are loyal and ardent workers for the church.

They have spent many volunteer hours serving tables, cleaning and decorating the church, working in the experimental nursery, ticketing clothes and making posters for Rummage Sales, contributing articles for the church newspaper and preparing it for mailing, planning parties for the very young and senior members of our church, visiting ill parishoners and have spent some of their earned funds on worthwhile projects.

The cheerful and willing spirit which the youth displayed while accomplishing these services is to be commended.

Earlier this year, in addition to the usual activities such as bowling, miniature golf and occasional volley ball, with your marvelous support we had a very successful Spaghetti Dinner and Raffle. Many hours went into the planning and executing of this event and the youth were encouraged by the good turn out and monetary profit they earned.

Motivated by the upcoming Annual Church Dance (which they personally supported with a \$30 booklet ad) they participated in two sessions of Armenian and American dancing. Later, thirteen of them enthusiastically attended the dance together.

The church picnic followed shortly after and once again the enterprising youth held a raffle. Thanks to all of you, they realized a nice profit.

A most enjoyable Splash and Picnic Party at the Rejebian home culminated our Spring session.

During the summer, thirteen of our members attended the Mekhitarist Language Camp in East Falmouth, Mass. They had a memorable vacation and we cannot help but feel that the desire to get away together was developed at least in a small measure by the friendships which were strengthened by belonging to their active church youth group.

In the fall, they once again planned a Halloween Party for the little ones. While some of the boys had fun setting up their Horror Tunnel, the girls delighted all of us with a hilarious surprise costume fashion show. Along with the much appreciated Women's Guild cider and donuts the youth made and distributed caramel popcorn balls. Creatively designed tiny pumpkins were given to each little one in lieu of prizes.

In November, thirty-seven tickets were purchased for the performance of "Godspell" at the new Broome County Arena. At the next Youth Group session Pauline House and Sandy Arakelian led a thought provoking discussion on the contemporary religious musical. This helpful program enabled all of us present to better understand the production and the opportunity to enrich our religious knowledge was seized.

Also in November, Father George returned to Binghamton as our newly ordained Priest and the Youth Group expressed their happiness by donating flowering plants for the altar.

In commemoration of the church's 50th Anniversary, the youth presented to the parish a photo album of collected news clippings and photographs.

Last month they gave a Christmas Tea for their grandparents and senior parishoners. They sent Armenian and English worded invitations, baked all the delicious cookies, decorated the church Christmas tree and tables, sang Christmas carols, recited an Armenian Christmas poem and Charlie Tateosian entertained all present with his guitar. Judging from the lovely comments received, it was an afternoon well spent.

For the last activity of the year, Youth Group went ice skating at Grippen Park in Endicott which was followed by a party at the church hall. The kids seemed to really enjoy this event.

The Youth Group, its advisors- Alice Ketchoyian, Grace Baradet- and myself take this opportunity to thank all of you who have given untold hours providing transportation, refreshments, supervision and encouragement; and I personally would like to express my appreciation to Father George, Alice and Grace for the constant help and support which they have given to me.

It is this kind of cooperation combined with meeting the special needs of the kids that have made all of these accomplishments possible. With your help we hope to continue to grow and meet the ever changing needs of this challenging group.

Respectfully submitted,



Marion E. Rejebian
Youth Group Director

January, 1974