

PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT-1977

Dear Parishioners and Friends:

The Church is an external and visible thing, made up of people, a building, customs and teachings, all intended to convey to you and others the spiritual grace of good christian living.

The pastoral work has many phases, for convenience I have summarized them under ^{the} following headings.

1. CHURCH SERVICES

On Sunday mornings, at 9.30 A.M. I have conducted a morning service, followed by the Divine Liturgy at 10.00 A.M. The sermons have been delivered either in Armenian or English. It must be noted that special feast days have been observed when ever the occasion arose.

During the Lenten season on each Wednesday ~~nights~~ ^{evenings} we had church service. The deacons and the A.C.Y.O.A. boys and girls read the prayers of St. Nerses the Graceful.

2. SACRAMENTS.

During 1977 the following Sacraments and Rites have been performed. Baptism and Confirmation 1, Weddings 3, Funerals 8.5

3. PASTORAL CALLS AND VISITATIONS.

I have visited our parishioners on many occasions, some times they were on happy events and sometimes on sad happenings. Sick calls have been made at homes and in hospitals.

4. CHURCH AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS.

These consist of the following, the Parish Council, the Women's Guild, School, The Choir, the A.C.Y.O.A, the Church, the Mr. and Mrs. Club, the Special Membership Committee. According to the dictum of the By-Laws of our Diocese, I have attended and presided over their meetings and provided spiritual guidance and counseling.

5. ARMENIAN SCHOOL

It must be pointed out that we have been unable to meet the requirements of the Educational Council of the Diocese, to have a Board to supervise the School. The Pastor acted as teacher and Superintendent assisted by two other teachers. A separate report will be given by Miss Isgoohi Simonian during the regular order of the Assembly.

6. HOME BLESSING.

Every effort was made to bless as many homes as possible. I am happy to report that 33 homes were blessed. It is incumbent on me to bring to your attention that some of our parishioners refused to have their homes blessed, where-as others ~~were~~ giving the impression that it was an imposition on them.

7. GRAVE BLESSING.

I have blessed the graves of our Parishioners on Memorial Day, May 30, at the Fair View Cemetery.

8. MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

On February 9, I have attended the Annual Dinner of the New Britain Area Conference of Churches with our Church representatives, Mrs. Violet Galazan, Mrs. Beverly Hoosigian and Mrs. Lucy Simonian.

Also, I must mention that I have attended the meetings of the Board of Directors, representing our Church.

On March 2nd, the third annual celebration of the Women Saints of the Armenian Church was held in our Church, St. George's Church of Hartford taking part in the celebration. The Women's Guild of our Church was the host Chapter. The Pastors of both churches furnished useful information during a lively Question and Answer period. Refreshments were served by the Women's Guild of our Church.

On May 3rd. and 4th. I have attended the Clergy Convention, held in Providence, R.I. and on May 5th. 6th. together with our Delegates, Mr. Edward Simonian, Mr. Paul Abrahamian, participated in the deliberations of the Diocesan Assembly.

On September 17 and October 1st. together with our Delegate, Mr. Paul Abrahamian, I have attended the Regional meetings held in Providence, R.I. and Worcester, Mass.

An Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service was held in the Trinity Church on November 20th. I was honored to give the Benediction.

An Advent Service was held at the South Church on November 30th. I (have) offered the Opening and closing prayers.

The last item is my translating the old records from Armenian into English for a special project undertaken by Mr. Gary Hovhanessian.

In conclusion, I say it has been my pleasure and privilege to serve our Church and to work with you. Also, I must point out that through your devotion ~~and~~ financial and moral contributions, our Church is in good shape. Thanks to each and every one of you for attending this meeting and making it a success with your recommendations and constructive criticism.

God bless you all, Amen.

Rev. Vartan Der Assadourian
Rev. Vartan Der Assadourian, Pastor.