

PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1983

Dear Parishioners:

By the grace and mercy of God we have completed another year in our church life.

This is a summary of my pastoral activities for the year 1983.

CHURCH SERVICES:

Each Sunday morning about 9.15 A.M., I have performed morning service, followed by Badarak at 10.00. The sermons have been in Armenian and English. Special feast days have been celebrated according to religious calendar.

During the Lenten season, every Wednesday evening at 7.00 P.M., we had special church service appropriate for Lent. During this service our choir sang the hymns and members of the A.C.Y.O.A., read the prayers of St. Nerses the Gracious.

SACRAMENTS:

During the year 1983 we had Baptism 2, Wedding none, Funeral 4.

MEETINGS:

I attended the meetings of our church organizations, beginning and ending the meetings with a prayer. Spiritual guidance was given as needed.

VISITATIONS AND SICK CALLS:

I have visited our parishioners on happy and sad occasions. I made sick calls to homes, hospitals as well as convalescent homes.

BLESSING OF HOMES AND GRAVES:

Upon request I have blessed the homes of our parishioners at Christmas or Easter and the graves on Memorial Day.

ARMENIAN SCHOOL:

I have been acting as teacher and supervisor. A separate report will be given by Miss Sirvart Simonian.

HIGHLIGHTS OF SOME OF MY OTHER ACTIVITIES ARE AS FOLLOWS

I have administered Holy Communion to the students and teachers of our Sunday School in the morning of Holy Saturday.

The 68th Anniversary of the Armenian Massacres of 1915 was held, Sunday, April 24 with a short program, our choir participating.

I was privileged to be the speaker.

The betrothal service for Suzie Maljanian and Malcolm Sagherian was performed by me June 12.

The Armenian Women Saints Day was celebrated by special church service June 16, pastors of St. George Armenian Church of Hartford and St. Mark Armenian Church of Springfield participating.

Our Choir, Deacons, myself and parishioners attended the consecration service of St. Mark Armenian Church of Springfield, May 21, 22.

ARCHBISHOP TORKOM MANOOGIAN'S JUBILEE

A committee was formed to represent our church in the New England celebration of this Jubilee. The committee members were: Fr. Vartan, Queenie Hovhanessian, Monty Bagdigian, Peter Bagdigian and Edward Simonian.

We attended several meetings prior to the Jubilee which was held at the Copley Plaza, Boston Mass. the weekend of June 17, 18, 19. Once again New Britain did its very best. We had ten people, committee members and their spouses, who participated in the weekend activities. We also met our financial obligation, parishioners donating to the Fund for religious study and education, to perpetuate and honor Archbishop Torkom Manoogian.

Hurach Azarigian received and recorded contributions made to the Fund which was turned over to the Executive body of the Jubilee Committee.

I participated with Fr. Francis O'Keefe in a wedding service of Gary and Ellen Hovhanessian on August 27, at St. Matthews Catholic Church of Tolland, Conn. Paul Abrahamian assisted me as deacon.

Yeretzgin Marie, myself and Mr. and Mrs. Sarkis Yerigian attended the 30th. Anniversary of St. George Armenian Church of Hartford.

IN APPRECIATION:

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Parish Council, church organizations and parishioners for their understanding, cooperation and support of our church.

Special thanks to our Deacons, the Choir and the Candle Bearers for their dedication and valuable service.

In conclusion, I say, let us be grateful for our many blessings.

The following verses from the Gospel explains my thoughts better. " If a family divides itself into groups that fight each other, that family will fall apart." Mark 3:25.

May God bless us all, Amen.

Rev. Vartan Der Assadourian
Father Vartan Der Assadourian
Pastor.