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THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF  
THE HOLY RESURRECTION  
1910 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT 06053

Hamlet Mehrabian  
Deacon-In-Charge

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**PASTORAL REPORT - 1997**  
Annual Parish Assembly  
February 1, 1998

I took this position of being your Deacon-In-Charge exactly one year ago. I found the church and the organizations under its auspices organized. Community leaders act responsibly and are tremendous assets to our parish church. Given the relatively small number of our parishioners we have many dedicated people helping our church to carry its mission.

**Major Religious Activities and Services**

**56th Anniversary** We had a successful 56th Anniversary Celebration in our church where special respect was paid to our nineteen senior parishioners.

**Fr. Michael's funeral** Our former pastor, late Father Michael Buttero's funeral service was performed by His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian. Over twenty clergymen participated in the services. The ceremony was very organized in which Fr. Tateos played important role.

**Sunday Services** Out of 52 Sundays 25 Divine Liturgies have been celebrated by nine different clergymen of our Diocese. The rest of the Sundays have been reserved for Jashoo services. During Jashoo Services often times short sermon was delivered for the Sunday School students.

**Tri-City Activities** Six religious commemorations were conducted together with the parishes of St. Mark, Springfield and St. George, Hartford.

<b>Sacraments / Services performed</b>	Baptisms	four	Marriages	two
	Burials	three	Home Blessings	two

**Education**

**Acolyte training** Special attention was paid to the youngsters of our parish to bring them to church and to get them involved in religious activities. I have to say that my pursuit was successful, since soon I was able to organize an acolyte group. Acolyte training sessions were conducted. Currently we have six new altar-servers of whom four

acolytes as well. We continue enjoying the dedicated service of two our senior altar-servers, Deacons Paul Abrahamian and Stephan DerMargosian. In the year '98 the aforementioned acolytes will be taking classes for incensing.

***Armenian language classes*** I discovered that there was a need of learning our mothertongue among some parishioners of different ages. In response to that much desired need In the month of June I started Armenian classes for young adult beginners, adult beginners and the adult advanced. The classes are being conducted regularly on Thursday evenings to this date. There are more than 20 attendants in three classes combined.

This year Bible Study sessions are planned to begin soon.

### **ACYOA**

Mary Abrahamian, our long time youth advisor felt that it was the time for new leaders in directing our ACYOA Juniors. I assigned Diana Colpitts and Gary Hovhannessian as new ACYOA Codirectors, Joe Cannata and Ashod DerAprahamian being Advisors. The people assigned are dedicated members of our church. Our ACYOA is expected to be even more vitalized in the year '98.

### **Sacramental Records**

The sacramental records of our church have been updated and completed. Entries had not been made in the Recordbook of Sacraments since 1986.

### **Visitations**

Hospitals in the area have been checked regularly for meeting the spiritual needs of our parishioners at the hospitals. Sick people have been visited all year long. I have appreciated Very Rev. Fr. Mesrob Semerjian's company in visiting our sick.

### **Activities Attended**

I have attended the New England regional Armenian Clergy Conferences, the Annual Diocesan Clergy Retreat and the Assembly, the annual Diocesan Choir Convention and took responsibilities at St. Vartan Camp. Also participated in the 1997 National Council of Christian Churches - related Churches and Jewish Organizations in the US conference in May, representing our Diocese.

### **Outreach**

Throughout the year one family, a member of our church, has monetarily helped two orphans in Armenia through myself. Their father was killed during the fights over Artsakh.

### **Publication**

Sunday Bulletin was prepared for each Sunday which, along with the timely community news, provides religious material fitting given feast days.

**Inventory**

New sets of Altar and vessel covers have been made, thanks to the generosity of our parish members. One set of liturgical vestments was received as donation.

**Cemetery Custodian**

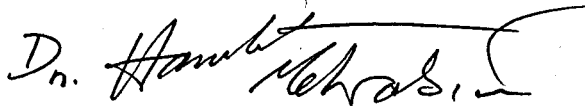
Timothy Bagdasarian has been appointed as assistant cemetery custodian to Huratch Azarigian.

**Parish State**

Two families moved from our area. Instead more families have joined our church parish during the past year. Church attendance has been satisfactory. Births, Baptisms and Marriages exceeded Burials in numbers, which indicates the vitality of our parish. This year more Births, Baptisms and Marriages are expected to take place.

I have enjoyed the kindness and cooperation of our parishioners all year long. I thank each one of you for making your church stronger. I am looking forward to working with you in this year for the betterment of our spiritual home, the Armenian Church of the Holy Resurrection.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dn. Hamlet Mehrabian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Hamlet Mehrabian  
Deacon-In-Charge