

ANNUAL REPORT OF PASTOR

By the grace of God and through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we the members of Christ's Holy Church have reached the end of another year of service to our faithful community. We offer our gratitude in thanksgiving to Christ Our God for His abundant Blessings and we continue our prayers asking our Father for guidance in the approaching year and beseeching Him to grace us with even greater achievement in good works bringing glory and honor to God our Father and our Holy Mother Church.

As we annually gather at this particular Assembly, we come together as a Family committed to the teachings of Our Lord Jesus Christ. We assess the harvest of the past, evaluating our work and plan to meet the needs of the future.

Material gain is not the focal point or measure for our success as a parish. Rather the spiritual gratification for accomplishments and achievements in the name of our beloved Church throughout the world become our inspiration and blessings.

Our Faith, Hope and Trust in God and in each other can help us overcome all inhibitions of spiritual growth and development. With the strength of the Holy Right Hand of Our Father we shall be led toward the successful completion of all our endeavors.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SERVICES

Our deepest thanks to the Deacons, Altar Servers, Choir, Organists and Church School Teachers whose untiring efforts have added to inspiring us and leading us to God.

We are most appreciative to Mr. Carnig Alexanderian and Mr. Avedis Choolfaian who tend the doors of our Church on the occasion of funerals.

WORSHIP

The celebration of the Divine Liturgy (Soorp Badarak) is central to all worship in our Church. Each Sunday the Holy Eucharist of Christ's Body and Blood is offered to our faithful. There have also been special festal and commemorative liturgies offered as well.

Our sermons have been delivered in both Armenian and English in order to reach our bi-lingual community.

The following special liturgies and services were celebrated:

- January 1 New Years Day-Jashou Lituroy
 - January 5 Theophany Eve
 - January 6 Theophany Day
 - January 11 Epiphany-Blessing of Water
 - February 26 Feast of the Holy Vartanank
- During Great Lent, the Vigil Service and Sun Rise Services were performed - Wednesday evenings and Monday mornings.
- March 11 Women Saints Day Services
 - April 11 St. Lazarus Jashou Liturgy
 - April 12 Palm Sunday
 - April 14 The Wise and Foolish Virgins
 - April 16 The Washing of Feet (Vodnlva)
Tenebre (Khavaroom)
Liturgy of Institution of Last Supper
 - April 17 Holy Friday-Crucifixion Service
Burial Service
 - April 18 Holy Saturday of Easter
 - April 19 Feast of Christ's Resurrection

April 24	Requiem for Armenian Martyrs
April 26	Armenian Memorial Day and Madagh
May 25	Grave Blessings (Memorial Day)
May 28	Ascension Day
June 7	Pentecost Liturgy
July 26	Transfiguration Liturgy
August 16	Assumption/Dormition of the Blessed Virgin Mary
September 13	Exaltation of the Holy Cross
December 24	St. Stephan's Eve (Western Christmas)

SACRAMENTS

Baptisms and Confirmations	12
Confirmations	8
Weddings	11
Funerals	20

GUEST CÉLEBRANTS

During the year we had the pleasure to have as our guests the following clergymen who celebrated the Divine Liturgy-

- Very Rev. Haigazoun Melkonian, Ascension Day, May 28, 1981
- Rev. Fr. Papken Maksoudian, July 5 and October 4, 1981
- Very Rev. Vasken Keshishian, Very Rev. Mesrob Semerjian, March 11, 1981
- Womens Saints Day
- Rev. Fr. Parea Metjian, visitation in June, 1981

Visitations-As part of our ministry we have visited the sick and hospitalized those convalescing at home and nursing homes. And those who are bereaved and grief stricken. We have shared their grief and extended our consolation thru prayer and God's message

We have also visited the Armenian Nursing Home in Jamaica Plains with our Womens Guild members.

PUBLICATIONS

The Church monthly, "The Messenger" is mailed to all Church members and Diocesan parishes informing them of our Church and community life and activities.

Sunday Bulletins are prepared and distributed each Sunday to the congregation, informing them of requiems and forthcoming activities. It also presents articles educating our people on the Doctrine, History and Traditions of the Armenian Church.

Special announcements and pamphlets for various activities and commemorations have been mailed to inform our people of important parish events.

ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

We maintain our relationship with all non-Armenian Churches through our membership in the Worcester-County Ecumenical Council of Churches.

We participated in the Tenebre Service sponsored by the Ecumenical Council on Wednesday, April 15th. at the Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church.

On Tuesday, March 24th. we also participated in worship and spoke on the Holy Week traditions and celebrations of the Armenian Church at the Central Congregational Church. This was likewise sponsored by the Ecumenical Council.

On November 22nd., under the sponsorship of the Eastern and Oriental Orthodox Roman Catholic Dialogue, we participated in a Thanksgiving service at Saint Bernards Roman Catholic Church.

On Sunday, November 8th.our Choir participated in an All City Choir Festival under the auspices of The Worcester County Ecumenical Council, held at Trinity Lutheran Church.

We are encouraged to see many of our parishioners taking part in these ecumenical gatherings.

EDUCATIONAL

As Pastor we have been invited to speak on several occasions about the Armenian Church, her teachings,Theology and traditions. We spoke at:

- March 19th. Kitchen Theology-Christ The King Roman Catholic Church
- March 21st. Church School Teachers Workshop-Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Cambridge, Ma.
- March 27-29th. ACYOA Juniors Lenten Retreat-Church of Our Saviour
- April 8th. SS. Vartanantz-Armenian Church, Chelmsford, Ma.
- April 3rd. St. Gregory Armenian Church. Haverhill, Ma.
- May 2nd. Church School Teachers Convocation at Diocesan Assembly-St.James Armenian Church, Watertown, Ma.
- June St. Nersess Reliqious Study Conference
- July Deacon's Training Program
- August St. Nersess Religious Study Conference
- October ACYOA Juniors Fall Retreat,SS. Vartanantz Armenian Church, Chelmsford, Ma.

It remains as part of our ministry to teach our faithful more about their faith and expose non-Armenians to our Church.

PROGRAMS

LIBRARY EXHIBIT

During the months of March and April we took part in a special exhibit at Worcester Public Library on the Eastern and Oriental Orthodox Communities of Worcester. This program was sponsored by the Worcester Branch of National Conference for Christians and Jews.

RADIO

On two occasions we were invited to speak on the radio. In March on station WTAG in conjunction with the Library Exhibit we took part in a joint radio interview with our sister Assyrian Orthodox Community. During this hour program we presented to the listening audience our over-view of the History, Doctrine and Theology of the Armenian Church.

In November we delivered the meditation and offered prayers on WORC's "Invitation to Worship" sponsored by the Worcester Ecumenical Council of Churches.

During the summer months on two occasions we welcome religious studies and sociology class students from Clark University. We presented to them a brief over-view of the Armenian Church.

PARISH SCHOOLS

Both our Church and Language Schools began their 1981-82 academic years with full programs. We have noticed however a steady decline in the enrollment in both of these educational institutions, partly due perhaps to the low birth rate but moreso on account of the apathy and indifference of parents. We cannot stress enough the importance of these schools. It is each and everyone's responsibility to encourage, support and promote interest.

SPECIAL COMMENDATIONS

Gomidas Award- On the occasion of the 35th. assembly of the Association of Armenian Church Choirs of America our Ekmalian Choir received the newly instituted "Gomidas Award" for faith dedication and practice to the ideals and goals of the Association of Armenian Church Choirs of America. We congratulate our Choir Director, Mrs. Hazel Eljanian and the devoted members whose songs of praise inspire us all.

Of special note, this years Choir assembly was dedicated in memoriam to Mrs. Margaret Hagopian our beloved Choir Director for many years whose untimely passing saddened us all. A special scholarship has been set up through the Choir Association available to students of music. It is known as the Margaret E. Haqopian Scholarship Fund.

FOR OUR YOUTH

During the months of June to August, seven (7) young people attended the Religious Study Conferences and Deacon's Training Program sponsored by the Saint Nersess Seminary. The sessions were held at the Ouzoonian House seminary building in New Rochelle, New York. We were pleased to learn that three of our students received scholarship assistance for outstanding performance. All participants were partially subsidized by our own parish.

APPRECIATION

We gratefully thank our church organizations, and our faithful parishioners who have added in some measure to the successful life of our Christian community. May God Bless You All!

Father Garabed D. Kochakian
Pastor

Rev. Fr. Garabed Kochakian