

ANNUAL REPORT 1980/81

ARMENIAN LANGUAGE AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS

The Armenian Language and Sunday Schools are currently in their eleventh session with classes being conducted in the St. James Armenian Church of Westchester in Harrison.

Language School With an enrollment of 32 students, the Language School has been conducted on Friday afternoons from 4 to 5:45 p.m. under the very capable direction of Mrs. Aida Pisani as Principal. The dedicated staff is comprised of Anahid Choukhachian, Magrit Chetinkaya, Alice Kalaydjian, Araxie Tepikian, and Eliz Bas, with Alice Shimshidian serving as a substitute teacher. The language instruction is enriched by Fr. Kasparian who shows and discusses slides relating to Armenian topics, leads folk singing, and lectures on Armenian culture. The language program is further complemented by Deanna Stepanian who has been teaching Armenian dancing and by John Vartan who talked with the students about Armenian music and instruments. Also, each Friday, parents provide refreshments on a rotating basis.

Sunday School Thirty six students are enrolled in the Sunday School with classes ranging from nursery-kindergarten to eighth grade. In addition to a specific curriculum of religious instruction for each grade level, students are taught prayers and sharagans. The very dedicated and competent staff includes Diane Davidian as Principal, Yeretzgin Kasparian, Lilian Boyajian, Chris Derdiarian, Linda Derdiarian, Valerie Pisani, and Laura Shimshidian. Jack Hachigian has been providing instruction on the singing of the Badarak.

School Committee Our School Committee has been coordinating the activities of both the Language and Sunday Schools. Heading the School Committee until the end of the 1979-80 school year, Anita Wolohojian served as the very capable and inspirational Chairperson of the School Committee. The School Committee is now headed by Ara Ishkanian with Mary Hakissian serving as Treasurer, and a 1980 membership including: Lucy Tepikian, Alice Shimshidian, Annette Bashian, Terez Khadjetourian. Teachers in each school meet monthly under Der Hyar's supervision to plan programs and improve instruction. The Diocese also provides support materials and services for our teachers.

Now that we have our own facilities for our schools, we hope to solidify the gains we have made in the past and continue to improve and develop our respective school programs. The School Committee is grateful to the staff for its enthusiasm and commitment.

The following is a brief financial statement of the schools:

Cash on hand as of Jan. 1, 1980	\$691.56
Total Income	<u>2117.55</u>
(plate collections, tuition, bake sale, hantes, donations, Vasbouragan Lodge gift)	<u>2809.11</u>
Expenses	
(School rental, teachers' salaries, teachers' educational programs, donations, books, sup- plies, fund raising expenses)	<u>1912.05</u>
Balance as of Jan. 1, 1981	\$897.06

Respectfully submitted,

Ara Ishkanian
Chairman