

PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT - 1981, February 7, 1982

By the grace of God and the participation of our active members in the life of the parish we have had an exceptionally good year in terms of church attendance, community involvement, organizational activities, educational programs, financial income and hopefully, also spiritual growth.

WORSHIP & SACRAMENTS - I have celebrated Holy Badarak, conducted other services and given sermons every Sunday, except four Sundays in the summer, American Christmas Eve, the Eve and the Day of the feast of Theopaany, Lenten period and Holy week. I am thankful to Rev. Fr. Vartan Jankulian, who took my place on the Sundays I was away in Yerevan, on an assignment sent by the Primate as director of the ACYOA sponsored Armenian Studies Program. Two of the four participants in that program grew to assume responsibilities as Sunday School teachers. The other two have been active members of the choir.

This year we have had the privilege of being led in worship on two occasions by the Most Rev. Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate and the Most Rev. Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan. Fr. Artin Ashjian and Deacon Michael Chevian have also participated in services with us.

We are gratified to see a large number of members of the parish participate in our worship services regularly. Twice this year we have offered explanation of the Divine Liturgy in order to enhance the understanding of the congregation of our Badarak.

This year we have had six baptisms. I have participated in six wedding ceremonies held in other churches. I have also conducted one funeral service in our church and participated in three others in sister churches.

As in the past, homeblessing and graveblessing ceremonies have been conducted upon request.

Our dedicated choirmaster Alfred Yeznaian moved to New Jersey and our new choirmaster Raffi Sevadjian has been working diligently with the choir and we are all pleased with his efforts and participation.

EDUCATIONAL & PASTORAL - I have helped in planning educational programs for various church organizations. Of special note have been the Martyrs' Day Observances and Armenian Culture Month Celebration, both events being sponsored by our youth. This year we also participated in a cultural festival of various nationalities at the Westchestrr Community College with a display and food counter.

In the Fall we offered a ten-session Bible study and Armenian language courses for adults. Assisting in the latter was Mark Kapikian. We plan to resume these classes next month and invite you to join us.

We have continued our training program for the altar servers and glad to see improvements.

The Armenian School under the direction of Aida Pisani and the Sunday School with the guidance of Yeretzgin Dawn have been functioning effectively, thanks to the efforts of the dedicated teachers.

One of my most pastoral duties has been visiting the homes and work places of many actual and prospective members. It has been my duty and privilege to share the burdens of parishioners beset with problems, pain and grief. I have tried humbly to be an instrument of the Holy Spirit in bringing about understanding and comfort where needed.

We have continued publishing our parish bulletin, the HOPE, with which we have tried to keep the community informed about our activities and also offered instructions about our church and culture.

ORGANIZATIONAL & ADMINISTRATIVE - As president of the Parish Council and all church organizations I have attended all their executive committee meetings and membership gatherings throughout the year offering necessary assistance and guidance in their deliberations. I am happy to inform you that a rejuvenated enthusiasm prevails in all our groups.

My interchurch activities include membership on the Diocesan Council, lectures and retreats in Washington, Syracuse, Cambridge and Yerevan. I have attended the annual assembly of the choir association of our diocese, the annual clergy conference and the diocesan assembly representing our parish. The diocesan assembly in Watertown was chaired by our own delegate, Judge Vincent Gurahian, who conducted the sessions with an excellent mastery of the podium.

I continue to be a member of the Board of Directors of the St. Nersess Seminary and I am happy to inform you that our parish will be the first to witness and to benefit from the re-activation of the Seminary in the near future, as a place to train our future clergymen, for which we have a dire need in our diocese presently.

APPRECIATION & RECOMMENDATIONS: I ask God's blessings upon and express my appreciation to the members of my Parish Council that functioned like a "tight ship" under "skipper" Ara Shimshidian. My heartfelt thanks for the dedicated services of the altar servers, the choir, the choirmaster, the Sunday School and Armenian School Staffs, the School Committee, the various church organizations: the Women's Guild, the A.C.Y.O.A. Seniors and Juniors, the Men's Club, the Avak Group, the Management Committee, as well as all other committees of projects which, in one way or another, have helped the growth of the Parish. Special thanks to Mrs. Elmas Davidian our most efficient bookkeeper, Mrs. Aida Pisani our cheerful secretary, Mrs. Anahid Choukhachian for her everready assistance, and Mrs. Aghavnie Sahagian our "mas" maker.

Our parish is especially indebted to two individuals, whose good will and donations have contributed considerably to our financial well-being. They are: Garo Bashian, who managed two rug sales through the courtesy of George Bashian Jr., and Edward Kalaydjian of Mt. Kisco, who donated a second Pontiac car for raffle. We pray for the prosperity of their business, with similar wishes for all our members and friends.

For the further growth and enrichment of the spiritual life of our Parish, we need to focus our attention on the study of the life and the message of our Lord through planned Bible study and individual devotional practices. The thrust of our ministry and the emphasis of the parish should be in this direction.

We also need to increase the number of our members; not just "dues paying" members, which the church needs so that more and more people will participate in the decision making process of the parish. We need mostly pledging members; members who are willing to give generously and sacrifice joyfully of their time, talent and treasure in order to make our Parish even more active and vibrant for the spiritual well being of its members and for the glory of God. May God bless you all.

Prayerfully,

*Fr. Kasparian Kasparian*

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