

## PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT - 1977

This year we have become even more aware of the growing pain we have experienced as a parish without a church. There seems to be a slackening of enthusiasm on the part of some members. However, the majority of our faithful have been patient and understanding of the plight of the parish, and have continued their support and cooperation. We are grateful to all who have shown sustained good will and dedication in building up the parish life.

### WORSHIP & SACRAMENTS

Divine Liturgy and preaching of the Word of God has been conducted regularly, except for a few Sundays in the summer. The Very Rev. Khajag Barsamian, Deacon Bedros Sarkissian, Deacon Hagop Rustemian and seminarian Onig Terzian filled in for me on those Sundays.

During the Lenten period we conducted special services followed by educational programs.

I have conducted one baptism, one wedding, and three funerals. I have also participated in the funeral of the father of a parishioner in another parish.

### PASTORAL

Due to my part-time status this year, also, I have had to limit my visitations mostly to telephone contacts. I am grateful for the opportunities of sharing in the personal and family concerns of our parishioners. The Holy Spirit is indeed at work when we need Him the most and ask His guidance and grace.

It has been my duty and pleasure to participate in the planning and execution of various educational and cultural programs sponsored by our church organizations. I have presided over all membership and executive committee meetings of the parish council and all church organizations.

Five members of our Jr. ACYOA participated in the Summer Religious Study Conferences of St. Nersess School and increased their knowledge of our spiritual and cultural heritage.

### INTER-CHURCH PARTICIPATION

As delegate, I attended the Diocesan Assembly in Providence, R.I. the first weekend in May.

Twice the Rev. Fr. Paul Lattimore, Pastor of our host church, and I have "Exchanged pulpits". I have also participated in a special ecumenical service on Good Friday at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church; across the street from St. Andrew's.

It was my privilege to conduct Armenian Christmas services for our small parish in Memphis, Tenn. by the request of the Primate. I was also given the responsibility by His Eminence to represent him at the Executive Board meeting of the National Council of Churches in America, to broadcast a Christmas message on the Voice of America for Armenia, and to represent our Church at an ecumenical conference of Roman Catholic and Eastern Church theologians.

I have participated in a pre-Christmas Divine Liturgy celebrated by the Primate at the Northern Westchester Community.

This summer, at the request of the Primate, it was my privilege to organize a month long educational trip for ACYOA members in Armenia. While there I was honored and humbled by being the recipient of an award His Holiness, the Catholicos of All Armenians bestowed upon me in the form of a priestly pectoral Cross.

We have continued the publication of our monthly newsletter, HOPE, and have tried to bring news of community interest as well as educational articles to about 500 readers on our mailing list. Throughout the year we have kept the community abreast of news of all activities in the parish with special flyers and bulletins.

#### APPRECIATION

I acknowledge with thankfulness the support and cooperation of the Parish Council and all church organizations: the School Committee, the Choir, the ACYOA (Senior and Junior), the Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Club, the Women's Guild, as well as the Building Fund Committee, the Nominating, Auditing and Site Finding Committees.

Let us resolve to intensify our efforts in the dedication to our beloved Church. Let us be more willing to see the good and the positive, and extend our help and support in all the activities of the parish. Finally, let us allow the Holy Spirit to cement our parish together into a wholesome family dedicated to doing the will of God in a spirit of mutual love and respect.

May 1978 be the year of turning point in the life of our parish.

*Der Karekin Kasparian*  
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February, 1978