

## PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT - 1997

1997 will be known in our parish history as "the transitional year". Preparations for transfer from Purchase were in progress during the early months of the year, while at the same time, we continued our normal parish activities, which culminated in a "farewell banquet" presided over by our Primate, when we honored Mr. Suren D. Fesjian, the Gunkahayr of St. James Parish and Mr. and Mrs. Hayik Tutak, the grand benefactors of the new Church.

Soon afterwards we moved to our new parish house (referred to as "our White House"), being used for offices, Armenian School and small group activities. We began to hold our worship services and sacramental rituals in the chapel of St. Nersess Seminary. This year we have had 12 baptisms, 4 weddings and 5 funerals.

While we have tried to continue our normal parish activities, we still have had to curtail certain others. Our Sunday School has suffered the most during this transitional year.

We appreciate the understanding of all faithful members who have weathered with us the temporary inconveniences of our "close quarters". While in Purchase we had our popular Lenten programs and Adult Education curriculum, the latter we also continued at the "White House".

The Parish Council has been more active this year than previously, primarily for additional meetings to administer decisions and implementations related to the building project.

The groups that have grown more active and stronger despite the inconveniences of the transitional move are: the Armenian School, the Women's Guild, the Choir, Hye Steppers and the Stewardship program.

The chairmen of the Building Committee and the Fund Raising Committee will give reports of their strenuous activities which have yielded tangible and significant results. While we have a joyful reason to celebrate the reality of our new and beautiful church complex, our excitement is somewhat curtailed by the realization for a significant amount of additional funds needed immediately in order to offset the undesirable possibility of halting the project. We keep wishing we could have the church ready at the end of May so that it may be consecrated by His Holiness, the Catholicos of All Armenians.

It is my pleasure to express my thanks and ask God's blessings upon all who have helped to make this transitional year a fruitful and memorable one in their respective involvements. Gale Perzigian, our church Secretary; Elmas Davidian, our Bookkeeper; Ara Ishkanian, Parish Council Chairperson; Richard Papalian, along with Zaven Tachdjian, the new Building Project Coordinator; Mack Basil and Richard Aslanian, the new Fundraising Committee Chairpersons; Anahid Chookhachian, Armenian School Principal; Laura Shimshidian, Administrative Coordinator of the Sunday School; Raffi Sevadjian, our Choir Director; Marguerite Sagatelian and Meline Kasparian, our Organists; Deacon Mark Kapikian and Altar Servers Edouard Zakharian, James Najarian, Stephen Mekenian, Arsham Antreasyan and Armen Salbashian; Elizabeth Derderian, Chairperson of the Women's Guild; George Guendjoian, Chairperson of the Hye Steppers; Paul Keyishian, Coordinator of the Rug Sale and with Irene Shadoian, Co-chairpersons of the Stewardship Committee; Mike Guroian, Picnic Chairperson, Lisa Kouzoujian, Chairperson of the M/M Hayik Tutak Appreciation Banquet and the New Year's Eve Celebration; Louise Yacoobian Garofalo, Ara Ishkanian and Mike Pisani, Co-chairpersons of the 50/50 Raffle Committee; Martha Gurahian, Chairperson of the Interior Design Committee of the new church complex; Alyce Vakassian, Chairperson of the Tag Sale; and all who have served our church in various capacities and contributed to its present well-being and future growth.

May God grant us all His wisdom, courage and grace to complete our new church and cultural center for His glory and the edification of our Parish.

*Fr. Karo Kasparian*