

PASTOR'S REPORT

1972

Dear Parishioners:

Although it is only one month that I have been serving as pastor of this parish during 1972, the cares and the proposals of this church are already my concern. A great deal of the time of this initial period has been devoted to acquainting myself with the members of the parish and organizations of the church by meeting with them and to learning about the city and the area in general.

Besides the worship services every Sunday, enthusiasm was created by the Candlelight Service in English on American Christmas Eve, where approximately 200 persons were present.

During the year 1972, I performed one baptism, one blessing of marriage and two funerals.

Contrary to the pessimism of some, our parish has vitality, as evidenced by the ACYOA group of more than 30 members, by the presence of a goodly number of choir members who sing with grace and faithfulness, by the almost 30 children of the Armenian School and about 50 children registered in the Sunday School, which all express modestly, yet eloquently, the future of the parish.

I am optimistic about this parish and, therefore, we should not fear any financial crises which is foreseen for the next year. A parish which has had a rich and eventful past, a parish who had and continues to have responsible and sacrificing members, a parish, especially, which lives through its children, will never deter from its purpose and will overcome every obstacle. The will to live and to persevere has been that of previous generations and is ours today.

On this occasion, I have one suggestion -- that we should be cognizant of our energies and clarify the potential of our parish in order to strengthen ourselves. In order to do this, we should have a true picture of ourselves. It is important that we determine who are members of our church and tied to our parish. We should strengthen the envelope system and have a dues-paying membership as outlined by the diocesan by-laws. This will put us on a more solid basis and will give us opportunity to strive to bring in people who are on the borderline or who feel that they are members but not actually committed. New commitment, new efforts, will bring more members and more contributions and will permeate new enthusiasm.

But especially when we have faith and inspiration in what we are doing, when we have love and respect towards each other, that faith and love can work miracles. Then no fear can enter into our real purpose which is to glorify God and to work and to deliverate so that the Armenian Church can enrich its spiritual and Armenian heritage within our community.

May the Lord Himself bestow upon you all His blessings of good health, long life and success in your God-pleasing endeavors.

Yours in prayer,

**Rev. Vartan Megherian
Pastor**