

ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH - Tenafly, N.J.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT 1972

The Sunday School began its season with registration on the third

Sunday of September and classes began the following Sunday. We had approximately 170 students registered. We had 12 classes (pre-schoolers through 10th grade); a staff of 19 teachers, 4 substitutes, and an administrative staff of 4. We also had Baby-Care under the supervision of Mrs. Carol Saraydarian and a staff of mothers.

From October through December one or two classes at a time received Communion. Following the services the students were served breakfast. Many thanks to Mrs. Rose Garjian who accepted the task of arranging for food for these occasions.

A Christmas lunch, party and program was held on Sunday, Dec. 17, 1972. The children as well as parents participated. Two movies were shown following an hour of activities for the youngsters (one about Armenia and the other an English film). Many thanks to an anonymous set of parents who donated the lovely artificial tree which we will be able to use for many years.. Thanks also to the parents who so willingly contribute time and energies to help serve at our social functions as well as often donating the refreshments.

During Lent Mite boxes were distributed and monies collected were used to continue our support of two students at the St. Tarkmanchatz School in Jerusalem.

A record group of children participated in the Easter Communion Service and Breakfast and the Easter Egg hunt which followed. This is one of the most enjoyable activities of the year - particularly when we are blessed with good weather.

A number of our classes have had the opportunity to attend church services at other churches (St. Theresa's Roman Catholic Church, the Cathedral, the Greek Church.) This is always a great learning experience for them.

On Palm Sunday we had a luncheon and program which was well received by the parish (and well attended). Many thanks to Mr. Antranig Ouzoonian who along with Harry Chakmakian took on the responsibility of preparing the food.

Suggestions: We need a much more active parents group to assist in the social activities of the Sunday School. We need more and better trained teachers (more parents would be most welcomed.)

The Sunday School has a most important task to perform in our parish. We thank our wonderful staff who give so freely and willingly of their time and energies..

During the past year a Pledge system was started on a volunteer basis in the higher grades. We feel this is good training for the students as they get ready to join the rank of active participants in the parish. One can see the difference this has made in the amounts of money received through the Sunday School collections.

When a man forgets himself in serving others, his self is receiving the best attention. -