



## The Holy Ascension Armenian Church

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Pastor

Rev. Fr. Guregh Kalfayan

PASTOR'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY, FEBRUARY 20, 1972

Dear Parishioners:

By the grace of God and with the cooperation of our church members, we have completed another successful year. In church life, success is measured by the awareness of its members of their spiritual needs. All of us are servants of the Church and have the duty in this parish of preserving our Christian faith and our national culture. The programs and activities indicate that the path is set, that we must pass on our religious and ethnic culture to our younger generation.

It gives us great pleasure as Pastor to report to this assembly our spiritual and administrative accomplishments of the past year, 1971. Of course, you must remember that we were convalescing from a heart attack for three months.

### Sacramental activities

During the past year we have offered the Divine Liturgy every Sunday, taking great effort to see that the services began on time. We also had special Divine Liturgy on the eve of Armenian Christmas and Easter; and also on the eve of the Fortieth Anniversary celebration ~~Divine Liturgy~~ <sup>was</sup> offered by His Eminence, Archbishop Torkom <sup>Manoogian</sup> ~~Manoogian~~. Also, three evening services were held on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday during the Easter season. We have delivered sermons each Sunday, fulfilling and strengthening the spiritual needs of our faithful. We have performed four baptisms and confirmations, three marriages, and four funeral services.

### Visitations

During the past year, we have visited the sick and elderly and those who were in mourning to offer them spiritual comfort. We visited parishioners hospitalized in Bridgeport, Newtown, New Haven and Norwalk. We would like our members to keep in mind that we have no way of knowing when one enters the hospital. Each member should inform us when he anticipates being admitted to the hospital. During 1971 we have made over seventy-five hospital and sympathy visits. We have visited about one hundred and fifty homes either for home blessing or pastoral visitation. We have had over thirty premarital counselling consultations with four couples who were preparing for marriage in our Bridgeport church. We tried to reach every individual in spiritual need in every way we knew.

### Choir and Altar

We would like to express our most sincere and heartfelt gratitude to the people who work with us throughout the year: to Deacon Vartan Stambolian; to Choirmaster, Mrs. Keghan Stambolian; to Organist, Mrs. Virginia Kalfaian; to my son, George Kalfayan, for his faithful service. We also express our appreciation to Mr. Vartan Tarpinian, Mr. Fraij Yapoujian, Miss Sara DerMagerdchian, and Miss Elma Matosian. *Sonja TRPASSO, CARME AND WILMA KRAKEDIAN, and Ropy de Jesusian -*

During the past year we have given special attention to training altar boys. We have trained eight boys, and are in the process of training more.

We have conducted choir rehearsals for Lent, Easter, and Christmas, and for the Fortieth Anniversary celebration.

### Administrative

We have maintained office hours as regularly as possible, during which time we have made telephone calls, written letters, and accepted visitors. We have also prepared many flyers for the various church organizations.

### Meetings

We have tried to be present to preside at all meetings of the subsidiary organizations.

### Parish Council

We have attended all the meetings of the Parish Council and tried to give guidance and help and to implement all the decisions made by the Parish Council. We would like to express our sincere thanks to the members of the 1971 Parish Council and to the Chairman, Dr. Berdj Harabedian.

### Diocesan Assembly and Clergy Conference

We have attended the Diocesan Assembly at Montreal, Canada, with Dr. James Etmekjian, the Diocesan Delegate, during the first weekend in May, 1971, and have submitted our report to the Parish Council.

### Armenian School

During the past year, we have continued to conduct the Armenian school at Trumbull High School until May, and are planning to continue to teach as soon as we regain or complete strength. We thank the Shakeh Varjarian members for their assistance.

### Youth Group

We have extended our help and guidance to encourage our youth to take an active part in the life of our Church. We have actively participated in their programs, but they also need your help. We would like to thank all the members and their Chairman, Miss Joann Dinianian. Also, we must thank the Youth Advisors, Mrs. Betty Dinianian, Mrs. Alice Gratchian, and Mr. Stanley Zysk.

### Fortieth Anniversary Celebration

Last year, our Church celebrated her fortieth anniversary. It was a joyous occasion for the Parish. We gave every assistance to the Committee during their preparations. We would like to thank all members of the committee and the Chairman, Mrs. Theresa Harabedian.

### Ladies Guild

We have attended all Ladies Guild activities, and most sincerely thank all the Executive Committee members and their Chairman, Mrs. Kay Demirjian.

### Bazaar

In November, 1971, we had our Bazaar. It was a very successful event. We would like to express our most sincere thanks and gratitude to the Bazaar Committee and to their very able Chairman, Mr. James Kernicky, for their efforts.

### Sunday School

We have given our utmost attention to the Sunday School. We have offered Communion once a month and also on Easter and Armenian Christmas. Our appreciation is extended to Mr. John Accashian, past Superintendent, and to all the teachers.

Publications *MR. AND MRS. Club. We have attended the social and Business meetings - we would like to congratulate the members of the committee and chairman Mrs. J.K.*  
We have continued to prepare and mail circulars and bulletins during the year. Also, beginning last October, with the help and cooperation of the Parish Council, we began again to publish the Pari Loor, our monthly publication. Additionally, we have been printing with the help of Mr. Vahe Derounian the church envelopes and the letterhead stationery.

### Blessing of the Graves

On Memorial Day we blessed the graves at the cemeteries in Bridgeport. On other occasions, we have blessed graves in Norwalk and New Haven.

### Other Activities

We secured employment for two people who had just arrived from overseas.

### Donations to the Church

We express our sincerest thanks to the Gopian family for donating the two vigil candle stands in memory of Kasper Gopian and John Gopian. We also thank Mrs. Keghan Stambolian for donating all the altar covers, the Bible holder, and the cross holder on the occasion of the Fortieth Anniversary celebration.

### Church Cleaning

We would like to express our gratitude to Mr. Amira Dinihanian for maintaining the cleanliness and neatness of the church and its grounds during the past year.

Community Affairs

Through the Council of Churches, we participated in the United Church of Christ Seminar on Cancer and the St. Vincent Hospital Forum for Cancer. Through the year we also maintained communications with the International Institute.

This, then, is a brief outline of our activities of the past year. We would like to thank all the people of this parish who donated their time and talents in helping us to fulfill our goals.