

ARMENIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY ASSENCION

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PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Today you are gathered here to listen to the reports of the various organizations of your church. You are all anxious to hear about the results and progress of the hard-working, devoted services of your parishioners for the past twelve months.

I was assigned as Pastor of this parish on January 18, 1984; therefore, I cannot present a report of the past year's activities. However, in September, 1983, I was contacted by Mr. Mardy Azarian, chairman of the Parish Council, and invited to visit Trumbull, Ct., since the parish was searching for a new spiritual leader. At the time, I had absolutely no idea about this parish. I only knew it was on the East coast, a location I was considering.

In October, 1983, I spent a week-end here, and it was after that I decided to accept the offer. Ultimately, my decision was confirmed by the Parish Council and approved by the Primate, His Grace Archbishop Torkom Manoogian.

Undoubtedly, a concise and proper evaluation on my part as well as your parish, with only one Badarak and a week-end visit, is not feasible. However, I do know my mission and as a priest am fully aware of my responsibilities of the position.

My thanks to Mardy Azarian, the chairman, and all the parish council members for their confidence in me and for allowing me the opportunity to come and explore the fields of this community. As the Gospel reads,find out and bring out the hidden treasures

To fully re-organize and revitalize the parish, I have the following ten point program in mind:

- 1) to visit all the parishioners, members and non-members of this community in order to know them better
- 2) to publish a new monthly parish newsletter, which will be called ANI
- 3) to re-organize the Sunday School
- 4) to organize the Armenian Language School, anticipating the opening on March 7, 1984
- 5) to increase and encourage new members in the choir
- 6) to train deacons and acolytes for our church
- 7) to organize a senior ACYOA chapter in our parish
- 8) to organize religious and cultural activities in the parish
- 9) to establish a solid and good relationship with our sister parishes, and to give special attention and care to the elderly
- 10) and finally, to be in contact with non-armenian churches by attending their functions and extending invitations

PASTOR'S REPORT, continued

Earlier I mentioned that "I know the mission of my church". It goes without saying that the sacred responsibility of any Armenian church in the Diaspora towards her people, especially the younger generation, who unfortunately know very little of their mother language and cultural heritage, forces us to realize the importance of not ignoring our young people. The Present and the Future is theirs. The younger generation should not appear on the margine of the page of our community life, but rather at its very center. I will do everything to assist them, encourage them to be more active in our parish life.

And finally, I am sure with your full moral and financial support, we can make this community a progressive one. Never say that we are a small parish. Most of the parishes in our Diocese are small.

During the last four weeks, I have met with some wonderful parishioners. I have been encouraged by their eagerness and willingness to help me in every way. I have already visited twenty-five homes. I was delighted to see their smiling faces and the love that was expressed toward their church. Everyone, without exception, showed a genuine feeling of support for their church and offered themselves in any capacity.

I pray everyone continue with the enthusiasm and the feelings now and always. My best wishes to all of you.

Prayerfully,


Father Untzag Nalbandian
Pastor