

The year 1979 has been a year of adjustment, new experiences, and progress. For your pastor it has been a privilege to provide leadership and guidance to ever-enlarging projects and programs. It has given him great satisfaction to counsel individuals who are disturbed, encourage those who are shut-in, guide souls in search of solace, truth and spiritual growth.

Celebrating Divine Liturgy, preaching the Word, administering the Sacraments, visiting the sick, the confined as well as the healthy, attending to and presiding over meetings, taking care of administrative duties, representing the church in numerous capacities, publishing, editing and printing, as well as mailing publications, organizing and supervising affairs, and guiding organizations, are only the visible aspects of his life.

During the past year Divine Liturgy was celebrated every Sunday except during the pastor's vacation, as well as special services during the Holy weeks of Christmas and Easter.

Sermons were preached in both languages.

Sacraments were administered as follows: 6 Christenings; 6 Weddings; and 5 Funerals.

In 1979 our paid membership numbered 93 at the time of the Parish Assembly.

By the efforts of Yeretzgin Grace Arakelian, and the help of Dr. Berdj Harabedian, and with the cooperation of a responsive group of parishioners, the Pledge System has proven to be an overwhelming success. The huge sum of \$13,650.00 was realized through the participation of 118 individuals. The 1980 Budget projects the sum of \$15,000.00 from the Pledge System.

Our priority has been to visit the sick in hospitals or in homes. The number of such visits has been 104.

Without fail, we have participated and presided over all of the meetings of our Parish Council, Building Committee, Women's Guild, Choir, Youth Organization and Sunday School and other committees, as well as their sub-committees, providing them with leadership, counselling, and follow-up work in executing and presenting their respective programs and projects.

Our church bulletin, "Voice", has been published regularly and mailed to approximately 1000 addresses both in our parish as well as throughout our entire Diocese and abroad. The "Voice" has been edited, typed, translated, printed, assembled, and mailed by the pastor with the help of Yeretzgin.

The "Voice", besides its moral, educational, and informative values, has also been a source of revenue, provided by appreciative subscribers. The complimentary mail received has been heart-warming and most encouraging. The sum of \$890 was received in contributions alone.

In addition to the "Voice" special bulletins, reports, lists, etc., which promote the work of our organizations have been prepared separately and mailed at different intervals.

The Sunday School began its 1978-1979 academic year with a full program,

provided by the CRE and other source materials. On many occasions the pastor preached sermons in English, especially directed to the Sunday School children. Mrs. Karen (Misakian) Kaechele, was appointed to the position of Superintendent, and was assisted by Mrs. Theresa Harabedian. Other teachers: Mrs. Janice Touloukian, Mrs. Beatrice Javian, Mrs. Rose Balian, Mrs. Marie Yapoujian, Miss Lisa Tutunjian - all have been most cooperative and carried on their duties diligently.

Harmonious singing by the Choir has been praised by both parishioners and visitors. Hrand Arakelian and Fraj Yapoujian served at the Altar regularly. Yeretzgin Grace Arakelian played the organ faithfully, without an absence of any Sunday. Mr. Charles Balian was appointed Choir Director and filled the position after many years of being without a leader.

The Cultural Committee was formed with an appropriation of \$5,000 over a period of 5 years by Mr. Berj Khachadourian. Dr. Berj Harabedian and Mr. Ralph Trapasso were appointed to work along with Mr. Khachadourian as coordinator to present cultural programs. Four programs were presented During 1979

During 1979 the following programs were presented:

Having in mind the need for information and education, we have established a Library with a grant of \$3,000 from Mr. Edward Mardigian of Detroit.

Two worthy parishioners were honored, one being Mrs. Keghan Stambolian, whose life was presented on the occasion of the name day of our church at a gala banquet, held in the church hall.

Mrs. Richard Gratchian was also honored at the annual Father's Day picnic as the "Man of the Year".

Every Sunday, following Divine Liturgy, a Coffee-Social Hour was initiated and continued through 1979. To date this experience has been very successful and rewarding. Hosts are needed to continue this popular project.

Plans are under way to organize a Junior Parish Council. This group will be tutored in rules and the by-laws of our church, and their annual function will be a New Year's Eve Dinner-Dance.

Mr. Peter Kapusuzian, who was invited to take over the job of Superintendent of our entire church complex, carried on his duties diligently and conscientiously.

We have initiated special campaigns to raise funds for the purchase of 120 cushioned chairs for the auditorium, a large conference table and 12 leather arm chairs, and English and Armenian typewriter. This project has already been fulfilled.

The past year terminated, leaving pastor and parish striving to be faithful to the call of God, Church and Nation. Now, however, we must move ahead to meet the needs and challenges which lie before us.

Looking over the practical side of issues, I strongly recommend: 1. The establishment of an endowment fund. Ever-increasing expenses and decreasing stewardship should alert us to think about the present and the future of our church. 2. As part of Christian stewardship, the Pledge System should be enlarged with participation by the entire community. This project, so far, has proven that it can be done.

The present 30% participation in this project should be increased to at least 70% to be more effective. 3. Special effort should be directed toward the amortization of our mortgage which presently stands at \$248,542.00. 4. The School Committee has to continue its efforts and explore the possibility of organizing and opening up an Armenian School. 5. Finally, a special committee should be set-up to organize a major affair in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of our church, which will be in May of 1981.

At this time I would like to offer my thanks and appreciation to all executives and members of our church-affiliated organizations; to the Deacons; Organist and Altar servers; Choir members; church employees; the esteemed individuals who took upon themselves many important responsibilities and performed their chores in humility, honorably and with dedication.

A special thanks to our parishioners and personal friends for their dedication, cooperation and assistance in all of our undertakings and endeavors.

May God bless us all according to our deeds and sacrifices.



Rev. Levon Arakelian