

As time is absorbed into the past, the acts, deeds and achievements of men and women and church organizations leave a record for us to study, ponder upon, search new perspectives, and plan for the years ahead.

An Annual Assembly is usually associated with giving and receiving many reports, electing officers, and busying ourselves in lots of book work, budgets, and appropriations. Like secular businesses, we too have to take inventory to make sure that all the figures and "merchandise" correspond with the reality we actually possess at the end of the fiscal year.

For a conscientious pastor, taking inventory can be a painful process. He may discover that some of the "merchandise" he thought he possessed has, in fact, been lost, wasted, or stolen. He may discover errors, miscalculations, and misunderstandings of his own that can throw him off course.

Yet, it is also an exhilarating process, for once it is over and everything is reconciled, then there is the satisfaction of knowing that what figures and appraisals show is really the way it is.

This inventory of 1981, at the completion of another year of our church life affords all of us an opportunity to also take a personal inventory, to assess what is transpiring within us, to face those things which hinder us from being the persons we are called upon by God to be, and to reaffirm that which we believe is important and necessary for our growth and maturity, and our involvement in God's work and His church, during our stay in this world.

Thinking and pondering along these lines, I can sincerely communicate to you that during this period I have tried, to the very best of my ability, to attend to the spiritual needs, administrative chores and educational programs by officiating, preaching, lecturing, organizing, providing leadership, visiting, writing, printing, by hearing and absorbing the cries of need and by having an in depth evaluation of every event and every situation.

I have shared my experience, knowledge and spiritual wealth with the young and old, who have made this small church an object of their love and concern, and have stood by their pastor through thick and thin, supporting him in every respect.

1. RELIGIOUS WORSHIP Scorp Badarak has been offered on 50 Sundays, and sermons have been preached in Armenian or English. On various Sundays, special sermonettes were also preached for the benefit of our Sunday School pupils. On special occasions, services were conducted according to Diocesan directives and church calendar.
2. RITUALS 5 Baptisms, Three weddings, 6 deaths, 44 Requiem services, 3 grave blessings.
3. PASTORAL VISITATIONS Categorized as follows: a. Hospital (sick calls) b. Nursing Homes (sick and elderly) c. Shut-ins d. Home calls for counselling and family crisis e. Home calls to bereaved families f. Home calls for happy occasions g. Home Blessings g. Administrative and business calls and miscellaneous visitations - number 152.
4. ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES This includes office, clerical work, correspondence answering inquiries, management, Parish Council and church affiliated organizations, general and committee meetings, attendance at functions of said organizations, promotion and execution of cultural and educational programs, involvement and leadership in social concern projects, issuance of certificates, and directives.

5. PUBLICATIONS AND CIRCULARS. The "Voice" - official bulletin of our parish has been published and mailed regularly to our parishioners, as well as throughout the country, to a mailing list of 950 addresses, consisting of 32 pages in each issue. The entire responsibility of editing, art work, typing, printing, and mailing is handled by the Pastor and his family.

The "Voice" has brought us acclaim and introduced our parish throughout the entire Diocese, as a lively, progressive, and up-coming community. Unsolicited contributions, mostly from out-of-towners have made our bulletin self-supporting, and even a profit-making enterprise.

In addition to the "Voice" special pamphlets with artistic rendering, advertising our various functions, as well as "in lieu of flowers", Christmas and Easter "Yughakin" donations, numbering 44, have been edited, printed, addressed and mailed, again by the same team.

At our personal expense we have mailed 245 Christmas, Wedding, Get-well, Sympathy, Birthday and other miscellaneous cards during this year, on appropriate dates and occasions.

The updating and correcting the addresses on our mailing list have been another time-consuming project, but which has insured us a next to perfect mailing list.

6. ORGANIZATIONS Our church affiliated organizations functioned diligently. We are especially happy with the strengthening of the Jr. ACYOA and we urge our parents to encourage and direct their children, 13-17 years of age, to join and become members. These organizations had committee meetings, luncheons, programs and sponsored various other affairs. The pastor availed himself and presided over all of these activities without fail.

As members of this parish, our interest and concern should not be limited to balancing budgets, attending secular affairs, dinners, parties, but rather our concern should be aimed at rekindling the faith of our fathers, preserving our heritage, orienting and educating ourselves and our children in and with our Armenian spirit and culture. Your church attendance in this instance is most imperative, and it has never been satisfactory.

At this time I would like to express a special thanks to the devoted and conscientious chairman of the parish council, Dr. Berdj Harabedian, to Mrs. Keghan Stambolian, Deacon Fraij Yapoujian, Deacon Hrand Arakelian, to our organist, Yeretzgin Grace Arakelian, to Mr. Chas. Balian - all who faithfully rendered their services ~~faithfully~~ throughout the past year.

Thanks to Mrs. Bea Javian, and her Guild members; to Mrs Theresa Harabedian and her Sunday School teaching staff; to Mark Maljanian and the Jr. ACYOA; to Mr. Edward Jevarjian for regularly dry cleaning all the choir robes throughout the year; to all choir members; to Mmes. Felice Avakian, Archalous Dinihanian and Siraspi Baltaian for preparing the "Mas" with their combined efforts and at their personal expense; to Mr. Richard Gratchian for always availing himself and attending to tedious chores in the electrical and plumbing areas and also wherever else he may be needed.

With this accounting new challenges and responsibilities face us for the on-coming year. Let us rally around our church, join hands, and become effective stewards for the advancement of our church, our people, and for the Greater Glory of God.

Rev. Levon Arakelian

*Rev. Levon Arakelian*

*Jan. 31, 1982*