

PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

FEB. 3, 1991

IT IS HARD FOR ME TO BELIEVE THAT TWO WEEKS AGO, I STARTED MY 8TH YEAR OF SERVICE AS THE PASTOR OF OUR 60 YEAR OLD PARISH.

AS I HAVE SAID MANY TIMES PRIVATELY AND PUBLICLY, I WANT TO REMIND YOU AGAIN THAT, I TAKE MY RESPONSIBILITIES SERIOUSLY AND TRY TO DO MY BEST IN FOLLOWING THE CANONS OF OUR CHURCH AND THE BY-LAWS OF OUR DIOCESE.

1990 WAS A GOOD YEAR IN GENERAL. IT WAS FULL OF RELIGIOUS, CULTURAL-EDUCATIONAL, SOCIAL AND FUND-RAISING AND ECUMENICAL ACTIVITIES.

I BELIEVE THAT ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS DID THEIR BEST. I THANK EACH ONE OF YOU, FOR YOUR SERVICES, ASSISTANCE AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT AND INVOLVEMENT WE CAN'T KEEP THE DOORS OF THIS CHURCH OPEN. I PRAY THAT GOD INCREASES THE NUMBERS OF GOOD SERVANTS AND VOLUNTEERS.

BESIDES THE SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES OF OUR CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS, WHICH ARE MENTIONED TO YOU IN THEIR ANNUAL REPORTS, WE HAD SOME OTHER ACTIVITIES THAT ARE WORTH MENTIONING.

1-I WAS MORE ACTIVE WITH THE TRUMBULL INTERFAITH COMMITTEE.

I HOSTED THREE ACTIVITIES IN OUR CHURCH: (a) ON JAN. 16 AT OUR CLERGY MEETING I INVITED THE NEWLY ELECTED FIRST SELECTMAN, DAVID WILSON AND LISA MISAKIAN WHO SHOWED SLIDES ON SOVIET ARMENIA'S EARTHQUAKE ZONE. THIS WAS RECEIVED VERY WELL BY THE CLERGY. (b) I INVITED THE TRUMBULL CLERGY FOR AN ECUMENICAL SERVICE FOR PEACE, ESPECIALLY FOR THE PEACE IN THE PERSIAN GULF ON OCT. 1. (c) ON DEC. 4, I HOSTED A PANEL DISCUSSION FOR "TRUMBULL PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS" GROUP. I WAS ONE OF THE PANELISTS WITH THREE OTHER TRUMBULL CLERGY. (d) ON NOV. 21, I ATTENDED AN ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE AT ST. TERESA'S CHURCH AND SAID A PRAYER FOR PEACE. (e) ON DEC. 12, I ATTENDED A LIGHTING OF THE MENORAH CEREMONY & PRAYER SERVICE IN FRONT OF THE TRUMBULL TOWN HALL.

2-ON JAN. 28 I ATTENDED ABP. TORKOM MANOOGIAN'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION CELEBRATION BADARAK AT ST. VARTAN'S CATHEDRAL FOLLOWED BY A BANQUET IN THE HALL.

3-I HAVE PARTICIPATED IN ALL THE CLERGY MEETINGS BE IT IN N.Y., NEW JERSEY, HARTFORD, WESTCHESTER OR ST. NERSESS SEMINARY.

4-I ATTENDED GRADUATION OR COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES OF ST. NERSESS STUDENTS.

5-ON APRIL 19 I WAS INVITED TO LECTURE WITH 2 OTHER CLERGY AT TRUMBULL HIGH SCHOOL ABOUT THE RECENT CHANGES IN THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS EFFECTS ON ARMENIA.

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- 6-ON APRIL 25, I WAS INVITED TO LECTURE AT DARIEN HIGH SCHOOL ABOUT THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE AND SHOWED SLIDES.
- 7-ON MAY 17 I WAS INVITED TO GIVE A LECTURE TO THE ASA. THE TOPIC WAS "WHAT IT MEANS TO BE AN ARMENIAN".
- 8- IN JULY I WAS INVITED TO SERVE AS A COUNSELOR WITH YERETZGIN AT ST. VARTAN CAMP. IT WAS A DIFFERENT EXPERIENCE FOR BOTH OF US.
- 9-AGAIN DURING LENT WE HAD SIX BIBLE STUDY SESSIONS AFTER THE WEDNESDAY EVENING PEACE & REST SERVICE.
- 10-WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF OUR SCHOOLS AND PARENTS WE STARTED ONCE A MONTH A "FAMILY PARTICIPATION SUNDAY" WHEN TEACHERS, PARENTS AND CHILDREN 10 AND UP TOOK PART IN THE SUNDAY WORKSHOP.
- 11-IN 1984 WHEN I MOVED TO THIS PARISH WE HAD A MORTGAGE OF \$205,000. THIS YEAR WE SEE THAT IT CAME DOWN TO \$111,000, IN SPITE OF ALL THE MAINTENANCE AND RENOVATION EXPENSES THAT WE HAD DURING THE PAST 7 YEARS. ALL THIS WAS DUE TO YOUR GENEROSITY. THANK YOU ALL.
- 12-BUT OF COURSE, THE CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT OF ALL THE ACTIVITIES WERE THE CONSECRATION OF THE 10 NEW RELIGIOUS PAINTINGS AND THE OPENING OF OUR "AGAHIGIAN-SHERINIAN" HALL AND ALL THE CLASSROOMS WHICH TOOK PLACE ON JUNE 3, WITH BISHOP ARIS SHIRVANIAN OF SAN FRANCISCO PRESIDING. CLOSE TO 150 PEOPLE ATTENDED THAT BANQUET AND CLOSE TO \$70,000 WAS COLLECTED OVER 3 YEARS FROM THE DONORS OF PAINTINGS, HALL, CLASSROOMS, PANTRY AND KITCHEN. I THANK ALL OF THE DONORS, THE PARISH COUNCIL (PAST AND PRESENT) AND YOUR FOR SUPPORTING THESE TWO PROJECTS.

FOR ME IT WAS VERY ENCOURAGING TO HAVE THE FULL SUPPORT OF MY FORMER SUPERIOR ABP. TORKOM MANOOGIAN AND LATER HEAR SIMILAR GOOD WORDS FROM BISHOP ARIS AND OUR NEW PRIMATE BISHOP KHAJAG IN REGARD TO THE RELIGIOUS PAINTINGS.

IT REMAINS TO US TO EDUCATE OUR NEW GENERATIONS AND NON-AREMENIAN PUBLIC THROUGH THESE PAINTINGS TOO.

NEEDLESS TO SAY THE BANQUET COMMITTEE DID A WONDERFUL JOB.

13- THE "BAZAAR 1990" WAS A GREAT SUCCESS NOT ONLY BECAUSE IT BROKE ALL THE FORMER RECORDS (OF MY TIME) BUT ALSO ALL WORKED IN THE CHRISTIAN SPIRIT WITH NO MAJOR PROBLEM.

14- I AM THANKFUL TO ALL OUR SUNDAY AND ARMENIAN SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS AND TEACHERS, WOMEN'S GUILD, CHOIR, ORGANISTS, DEACONS, CONDUCTOR AND ALL THAT HELP IN ANY AND EVERY WAY THEY CAN FOR THE ABOVE MENTIONED ORGANIZATIONS.

15- THE NEW DIRECTORY WAS ALSO PREPARED, UPDATED AND WAS SENT TO THE PRINTER. I THANK ALL THOSE WHO HELPED IN THAT PROJECT.

IN 1990, WE HAD A FEW THINGS THAT WE WEREN'T ABLE TO FULFILL FOR DIFFERENT REASONS:

- 1- THE LAND SURVEY WAS NOT DONE DUE TO LACK OF FUNDS.
- 2- JOINT DANCE WITH WESTCHESTER PARISH WAS NOT REALIZED BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T WANT TO DO IT AT THIS TIME.

IN 1991, WE MUST REORGANIZE OUR ACYOA JR. GROUP AND BRING NEW MEMBERS IN THE CHOIR. ALSO STARTING A JUNIOR CHOIR WITH OUR TEENAGERS.

I CAN PLAN MANY THINGS, BUT SUCCEED ONLY IF I HAVE THE SUPPORT OF MY PARISHIONERS, MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS, PARENTS, TEACHERS ETC.

I AM HAPPY TO SEE THAT MANY NON-MEMBERS ARE BECOMING MORE ACTIVE AND ALSO CONTRIBUTING GENEROUSLY. IN FACT IN 1990 NON-MEMBERS HAVE CONTRIBUTED ALMOST AS MUCH AS THE DUES-PAYING MEMBERS. WE SHOULD NOT JUDGE OR EVALUATE OUR FAMILIES BASED ON THEIR ATTENDANCE OR BEING A DUES-PAYING MEMBER. EACH AND EVERY ONE OF OUR COMMUNITY FAMILIES AND MEMBERS ARE PRECIOUS FOR US. THEY ALL ARE OUR CHILDREN AND I CARE ABOUT THEM AND TRY TO TAKE CARE OF THEIR SPIRITUAL AND CULTURAL NEEDS.

I WANT TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

- a) THIS YEAR BEING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR CHURCH - WE MUST PLAN TO CELEBRATE IT IN THE BEST WAY WE CAN. BUT TO PLAN THE EVENT WE WILL NEED TIME. I THINK WE SHOULD WORK TO BURN THE MORTGAGE AND INVITE THE BISHOP. I SEE MAY OF 1992 TO BE THE BEST DATE FOR THIS EVENT.
- b) WE HAVE NEW FAMILIES MOVING TO OUR AREA FROM THE SOVIET UNION. WE MUST START A FUND FOR THE NEEDY TO BE ABLE TO ASSIST THESE AND OTHER NEEDY FAMILIES.
- c) IN OUR JAN. 22, 1991 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY DECIDED THAT THESE ARMENIAN FAMILIES FROM AZERBAIJAN AND THE NURSES AND DOCTORS AT THE YALE NEW HAVEN HOSPITAL BE OUR GUESTS AT OUR CHURCH FUNCTIONS.
- d) I AM HAPPY TO BE INVITED TO (MANY TIMES WITH MY FAMILY) TO SOCIAL AND DIFFERENT GATHERINGS IN YOUR HOMES. YOUR HOSPITALITY IS GREAT AND I ENJOY BEING WITH YOU AND I MUST TRY TO BE WITH YOU BECAUSE I REPRESENT THE CHURCH. UNFORTUNATELY SOME TIMES I REFUSE, ONLY BECAUSE IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO BE IN TWO PLACES AT THE SAME TIME. AND I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND. IN 1990 I HAVE ATTENDED OVER 50 SUCH UNOFFICAL GATHERINGS.

- e) PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES AND PLEDGES BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR WHICH WILL MAKE OUR JOB EASIER.
- f) WHENEVER YOU NEED THE SERVICES OF THE PASTOR FOR SACRAMENTS AND FUNERALS CONTACT HIM FIRST, BEFORE YOU MAKE ANY ARRANGEMENTS. THIS IS CAUSING PROBLEMS MANY TIMES. IN CASE OF FUNERALS OUR CHURCH HAS THREE SERVICES TO DO - WAKE, CHURCH AND CEMETARY. IN CASE OF WEDDINGS - THEY MUST BE DONE IN THE CHURCH. IN CASE OF BAPTISM - THE GODFATHER MUST BE A MEMBER OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH. PLEASE DO NOT ASSUME THAT, IF I WANT, I CAN BREAK THE CANON OF THE CHURCH AND ACT ACCORDING TO YOUR WISH.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THOSE WHO SPONSORED COFFEE HOURS OR MADE SPECIAL DONATIONS ON DIFFERENT OCCASIONS.

I THANK THE MORTGAGE BURNING COMMITTEE FOR DOING THEIR BEST IN LOWERING THE CHURCH MORTGAGE.

IN 1990 AT A JOINT MEETING WITH THE PARISH COUNCIL, THE COMMITTEE DECIDED TO SELL THE CHURCH PEWS. I AM HAPPY TO SEE THAT 1/3 IS ALREADY SOLD AND HOPE THAT BY THE END OF THIS YEAR THE REST OF THE PEWS WILL BE SOLD ALSO.

I THANK DR. BERDJ HARABEDIAN FOR BEING THE DELEGATE OF OUR CHURCH FOR THE LAST 20 YEARS. ON BEHALF OF OUR CHURCH I WANT TO PRESENT HIM THIS BOOK AS A SMALL TOKEN OF OUR APPRECIATION.

I THANK THE WOMEN'S GUILD OFFICERS.

I ALSO THANK ALL OUR PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR THEIR SERVICES AND HOURS AND HOURS OF WORK.

THE EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE IN ARMENIA DEFINITELY WILL EFFECT THE DIASPORA - ARMENIA RELATIONSHIP. THE COUNTRY'S TREND IS TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE, MORE FREEDOM AND A COMPLETE COMEBACK TO RELIGION AND CHURCH.

TODAY THE TRICOLOR IS FLYING IN ARMENIA AND OUR VEHPAR (CATHOLICOS) ALREADY GAVE HIS BLESSINGS.

WE CANNOT CUT OURSELVES FROM OUR MOTHERLAND.

I THANK ALL OF YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR CHURCH MORALLY AND FINANCIALLY AND BY ALL YOUR UNSELFISH SERVICES.

WE NEED EACH ONE OF YOU. WHENEVER YOU HAVE DIFFICULTIES OR COMPLAINTS,

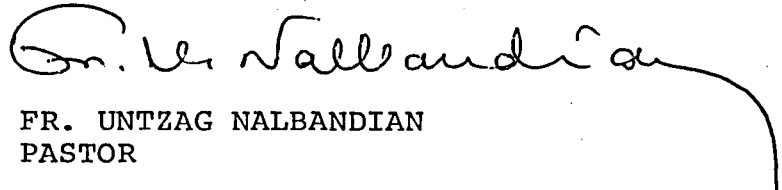
PLEASE SEE ME BEFORE YOU SEE OTHERS AND I'LL DO MY BEST TO HELP YOU.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU, YOUR FAMILIES AND ALL YOUR LOVED ONES, AND GIVE YOU HEALTH OF SOUL, MIND AND BODY.

I CONCLUDE MY REPORT BY THE WORDS OF JESUS, WHICH HE DIRECTED TO HIS DISCIPLES AND WHICH HE DIRECTS ALSO TO US TODAY AND ALWAYS.

"ANYONE WANTING TO BE A LEADER AMONG YOU, MUST BE YOUR SERVANT. AND IF YOU WANT TO BE RIGHT AT THE TOP, YOU MUST SERVE LIKE A SLAVE. YOUR ATTITUDE MUST BE LIKE MY OWN, FOR I, THE MESSIAH, DID NOT COME TO BE SERVED, BUT TO SERVE".

PRAYERFULLY,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Fr. Untzag Nalbandian". The signature is written in dark ink and extends across the width of the page, with a long, sweeping tail that curves downwards and to the right.

FR. UNTZAG NALBANDIAN
PASTOR