

Pastor's Annual Report

January 31, 1993

The Armenian people and church, both in Armenia and diaspora, have experienced monumental changes in the last decade of the 20th century for which they neither had the expectation nor the preparation.

Here we are in Trumbull, the year 1993, where do we stand after the 1988 earthquake or 1991 Armenia's declaration of independence or in our case after the 62nd anniversary of our church community?

Two weeks ago, I started my 10th year of service as the pastor of our 62 year old parish.

The year 1992, in general, was a good year. Again, we had different religious, cultural, educational, social and fund-raising activities.

I thank each one of you for your services, assistance and financial support.

Besides our many so called routine activities, we had some other activities that are worth mentioning:

1. During lenten period, six lectures were offered to the parishioners. Besides the pastor, other speakers such as Linda McGann, Maureen Najarian and Prof. Peter Cowe were involved. This program, with different topics and different speakers will be repeated.
2. The performance of AGBU's "Antranig Dance Group" at Trumbull High School, was a successful event both culturally and financially. My appreciation to all the Cultural Committee members.
3. The \$500.00 Club was another project. We reduced the church mortgage to \$52,000. Close to 50 families contributed \$500.00. I am hoping that those who didn't will one day be able to at least donate \$250.00 so they will be able to sign our church poster.
4. At our June 7, 1992, 62nd Anniversary Banquet, for the first time, we had our Primate visit our parish. He celebrated liturgy, preached and presided at our 62nd Anniversary Banquet.
5. Also, for the first time in the history of our church, we gave scholarships to three young college students. We owe this to the generosity and vision of Dr. Harry Agahigian, who established this special fund.

6. The opening of the new "Harabedian-Mardigian" library was done on February 23, 1992 and the DerMegerdichian-Stambolian choir room on April 12, 1992.
7. Land Survey - Three years ago, this assembly passed a resolution in regard of surveying our back land. I am happy to inform you that it is almost done.
8. Testimonial dinner honoring Judge Aram Tellalian was a success. The committee for this dinner was composed of mostly new young adults.
9. After close to 15 years of service, the Mortgage Committee was dissolved. The original mortgage of \$250.00 was reduced to \$52,000 through the efforts of this committee and parishioners. The Mortgage Committee members were honored on January 17, 1993.
10. During the year, I attended regional, diocesan, clergy and interfaith committee meetings. I also was invited to lecture.
11. A new hot water heater was installed in the boiler room. The driveway was partly repaired and the pastor's office was redone.

I want to express my gratitude to our Primate, Parish Council, my family and to all of you for your support and encouragement. I have finished my education at Sacred Heart University and am preparing to pass the required, so called, Comprehensive Exam, in April.

I must say that this opportunity gave me a different perspective of religion, theology and of biblical studies and of Western and non-orthodox religious thinkers. It also gave me some knowledge and understanding of other religions, past and present and religious movements.

My appreciation to all church organizations and committees.

Without giving names, please accept my appreciation for serving in organizations, school, choir, altar, committees, etc.

May God grant you health of soul and mind so that you continue to serve him.

Church services and attendance.

I often think about Sunday liturgy and attendance. What a strange people we are. We build churches or we buy big churches. We kill ourselves to pay the church mortgage. We cry to have a full time parish priest. We say we need more clergy, "what will

happen to our churches?" We declare to the world that we are the first Christian nation on earth, but we don't do the most important thing--ATTEND LITURGY ON SUNDAYS--very few do. Please think about it, and do something for you and your family.

Annual Dues & Pledge

- Be a dues paying member so that you can run for office and have a say in how your church is run.
- Pledge an amount to your church annually so we can pay church expenses without begging throughout the year.

A few words about Armenia and Karabagh.

Two years ago, in my annual report, I explained that the events that took place in Armenia in 1990 would definitely affect the diaspora-Armenia relationship. The country's trend was toward's independence, more freedom and a complete comeback to religion and church. I also stated that "we cannot cut ourselves from our motherland."

Today, Armenia is free, not necessarily better, but people are coming back to their religion and church.

Armenia needs us and we need Armenia. When I speak about Armenia, in my mind Karabagh is included, because it is part of our historic Armenia. I feel we must assist, as I know many of you have done, but what we have done is very minimal almost "vochinch" (nothing).

In our last Parish Council meeting, I informed them that I have a new project called "Help Armenia." I'll form a committee and this committee's job will be to raise funds for Armenia, to collect donations (not necessarily only from Armenians) and we will send our assistance directly to Armenia with our men and volunteers. Hopefully, this will generate more interest among those who wish to visit Armenia and "do something" for our brothers and sisters there.

My appreciation to the to the Editor of our ANI newsletter, Lisa Misakian, the collating group, "Mahs" makers and all the maintenance and repair volunteers.

My appreciation also to our diocesan delegate, Connie Kasparian, for representing our parish at the annual assembly in Boca Raton, Florida--especially this year because I couldn't attend.

I also thank all our Parish Council members for providing the leadership with the pastor of this community. They are:

1. Vrej Yapoujian, Chairman
2. Garo Garabedian, Vice Chairman

3. Shavarsh Papazian, Treasurer
4. Connie Kasparian, Asst. Treasurer
5. Herbert Avakian, Secretary
(Vartan Vartanian resigned)
6. Thomas Dabakian
7. Richard Najarian
8. Nicky Taraian
9. Carmen Fuchs

In keeping with our tradition or custom, I want to acknowledge the services of two outgoing members, Shavarsh and Herbert, for serving six years in the Council and will present them with a small gift, an Armenian Khatchkar from Armenia.

Again, I want to thank each of you for your unselfish service, generosity and support.

May God bless you and your family. I conclude my report by the words of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, which he directed to his disciples and which he directs also to us today and always:

"...You know that the rulers of the heathen have power over them and the leaders have complete authority. This, however, is not the way it shall be among you. If one of you wants to be great, he must be the servant of the rest; and if one of you wants to be first, he must be your slave-- like the Son of Man, who did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life to redeem many people." (Matt. 20:25-28)

Prayerfully,


Fr. Untzag Nalbandian
Pastor