

1968 Pastoral Report- Rev. Arsen BarsamianReligious-Educational

The Divine Liturgy was celebrated each Sunday except the Sundays I attended the consecration service of the Cathedral at which time I attended the Annual Diocesan Assembly and also the two Sundays I was on vacation in August. On three other occasions when I was out of town Der Boghos Manoukian celebrated the services for which on behalf of our entire community, I convey to him our deepest gratitude. Other than the regular Sunday services Vigil (Husgoom) was performed on Wednesday Evenings during the Lenten Period and a service was held on the eve of western Christendom Christmas. For ^{each} of these either a sermon was delivered or an educational message ^{was} given which required a great deal of time to prepare. One sermon adequately prepared takes from 15-20 hours to prepare.

Armenian Lessons were given during the summer with the hope that those who sing in the choir would be able to sing reading the Armenian letterings instead of the English. I planned to have them later go into Armenian folk songs and conversation. I worked with the choir and the young boys teaching our church songs and the deacon's parts. With the ACYOA members, we visited those people who because of illnesses are not able to attend Sunday Morning Services singing Armenian and American Christmas songs. I am hoping we will be able to have our Sunday School Children sing the Badarak during the summer months. We tried this year and were not too successful. It is extremely important that they know something of this service at an early age. Holy Communion was received by the Sunday School and ACYOA members 5 times during the year. I conveyed the message of greeting to our Catholicos on behalf of our community at the banquet held in Washington. I also was called upon to act as Master-of-Ceremonies at all of our affairs. I wish those planning this year's program make arrangements for someone else to do this.

Sacraments

Weddings - 2; Baptism - 1; Confirmation - 1; Funerals - 3.

Pastoral Visitations-Consultations-Studies

My visitations within and without the community were innumerable and for many reasons whether it be personal problems, advice or seeking general knowledge about a matter. These visitations and consultations were and are very important. As far as my personal studies are concerned, which is also a very vital part of my service to this community, I am sorry to report that these have been almost completely neglected because of the lack of time. I am hoping my involvement is less in non important matters to allow me more time to apply toward these important matters of visitations, consultations and studies.

Meetings

Beside the regular meetings held once every two weeks with the Parish Council, I presided over the monthly meetings of all of our church organizations. Sometimes this meant being in two places at the same time. Although this is physically impossible, I often had to make the impossible possible. Other special meetings were held. This year we are the host chapter to the ACYOA Assembly which of course means an additional workload ^{on me} of not only last year but this year. Two Annual Membership Meetings took place and two meetings of the officers

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Membership Meetings took place and two meetings of the officers of our church organizations. A joint meeting was held with the Washington Parish Council and as I have already said, I attended the Diocesan Assembly and The Regional Conference of the ACYOA in Philadelphia.

Publicity-Educational

The 'Sevan Newsletter' was published periodically with special bulletins for Easter and Christmas together with the Christmas Greeting Card List. I prepared and printed special announcements during the course of the year. The work on The Vartanantz Day bulletin required much time and effort. The mimeograph machine often needed repair and I made arrangements to have it repaired and saw to it that we had adequate supplies.

Arrangements were made with the local newspapers and diocesan publications to have articles printed and pictures put in publicizing some of our community activities.

I took care of some of the correspondence pertaining to church business and affairs. Also I wrote letters expressing our appreciations to non-members who made donations to the church.

Miscellaneous

Other undertakings.....

- A) Kneelers put in the pews
- B) Rod for the altar curtain installed
- C) Planting of the Memorial Tree

Future

As I stated last year, I repeat again, we need to expand. We need now a larger hall and kitchen. Some other physical needs are...a) cabinets in the vestry and choir rooms b) window glass ought to be changed to make the interior of the church appear more attractive c) rugging is needed in the vestibule. Last but not least, much of our future hopes lie on how successful we are in having the children sing the Badarak during the summer months.