

1973 Pastoral Report

The most important aspect of my service was spiritually to console the people and to lead and enlighten them according to our sacred tradition. The main consolation being the celebration of the Divine Liturgy was done except for 3 Sundays. During the course of the year 5 baptism, 5 marriages, and 5 funeral services were held.

Since February, I have given Armenian lessons to the youth every week. In September an adult class was begun in addition to the youth class. I do this receiving no assistance from anyone. During the summer months catechism was taught in addition to the youth Armenian lessons. I outlined a teaching program for some of the Sunday School teachers. We should all be proud of the progress the school is doing under the leadership of Bob Garian and his staff.

I am pleased to report that most of the secretarial chores that had burdened me for years is being done by Mrs. Ann Goff. She has been coming regularly three times a week working five hours each day. We pay her only \$15.00 a month which is to help defray some of her gas expense travelling back and forth. We did not start paying her until August. She began in April. In my report given last year I stated that there were projects begun five years ago that were never finished mainly because of the lack of secretarial assistance. An enormous amount of vital work for the operation and functioning of this community has been accomplished because of her services - records files are made and kept up-to-date; correspondence done with regularity; our inventory in its final stage; the work and mailing in conjunction with the library. If we had hired a person to do the work that she is doing, it would have cost us well over \$3,000.00. I'm not only indebted to her but the church community as well. There should be an increase made for her services in the budget.

There is a part--time maintenance man whom I personally feel is a good person, reliable and trustworthy, but there is need for a person to supervise the work. Often the kitchen and garbage cans are left in disorderly condition all week until he comes at the end of the week again.

I assisted others in making it possible for flowers on the altar, the Christmas Greeting Card and the Sevan Newsletter. We were fortunate in having some publicity this past year. The picture of three boys in reading from the Book of Daniel appeared in the Newsletter. I taught them the reading.

Some other activities pertinent to my and Parish Council services:

- 1 - A church library begun
- 2 - Annual Membership Meeting
- 3 - January 26th Bingo -- Ladies Aid
- 4 - Feb. 10 - ACYOA Dance
- 5 - " 25 - Vartanantz Day Program - Dinner and Boy Scout Sunday
- 6 - March 30 - ACYOA Movie Night
- 7 - Make arrangements to see performing artists from Armenia by bus in Washington. Program was later postponed.
- 8 - Presentation of a play by Washington performers
- 9 - April 22 - Easter Dinner - Ladies Aid
- 10- " 29 - Martyrs' Day Program - Dinner
- 11- Diocesan Assembly in Worcester
- 12- May 13 - Mother's Day - ACYOA
- 13- June 3 - Sunday School Closing Program
- 14- " 17 - Annual Church Picnic

- 15 - September - State Fair Days
- 16 - October 10 - Sister of the Poor - use of church hall
- 17 - October 28 - Cultural Program
- 18 - November 7 - 2 hour session with graduate students of Union Theological School explaining about the Armenian Church, her people and nation
- 19 - December 9 Church Name-Day Celebration
- 20 - December 23 - Sunday School Christmas Program and ACYOA's caroling

Again, much was done and much was left undone. We need more assistance and better organizing which is our main weakness.

I extend my appreciation to the members of the Parish Council and its Chariman, Gerry Sharigian; the Ladies Aid and Mrs. Kricorian; Yeretsgin Manoukian, Krikor Krikorian, and Kaghtzrouni for their continued faithful services each Sunday; to Azniv Amirkhanian and the ACYOA and once again to Bobby Garian and the Sunday School Staff.

Rev. Arsen Benveniste