

## 1975 PASTORAL REPORT

The most important aspect of my services was spiritually consoling our people and enlightening them in the way of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the teachings of our sacred traditions. The main consolation was in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and with few exceptions, a spiritual message was given in Armenian and English every Sunday. This service was celebrated every Sunday except for the Sunday I attended the Diocesan Assembly.

During the course of 1975 there were:

Baptisms - 1

Marriages - 4 in Richmond, 2 in Washington, DC

Funerals - 7 in Richmond, 2 in Washington.

I was called upon several times to do services in Washington, DC since they are without a priest.

I have worked with our Sunday School staff in its program; the first part of the year with Bob Garian who submitted his resignation due to his personal work and this current school year with Roxie Kricorian who has been doing an exceptionally fine job.

The work and arrangements for five major feast days especially Holy Week and Easter were demanding, in order to make the services meaningful for all. Special service booklets were made in English and Armenian.

I gave Armenian lessons from January until June to the junior group and January until April to the adult group. As you know the Richmond Armenian School Board was formed operating under the auspices of our church and its success thus far has been most gratifying.

I attended the following meetings beside the regular meetings of the church organizations:

- clergy conference and diocesan assembly.
- special meeting of Richmond clergymen to discuss bicentennial

celebration.

- Westend Clergymen meeting in conjunction with the Thanksgiving Eve service held at Grace Baptist Church and July 4th celebration in 1976.

- with Bp. Sullivan and representatives from Catholic Diocese for April 24th commemorative ceremony at cathedral.

I was called upon at two different times to offer invocation prayers at the naturalization ceremony of new citizens and have assisted those needing aid in their problems with Immigration-Naturalization Office. Arrangements for the dinner-meeting of the Richmond, Henrico and Chesterfield County Librarian Association which our Ladies Aid prepared and served.

This year we will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of our church. Arrangements are being made to hold the celebration on November 11 with the Primate presiding over the festivities.

Other services:

- aiding those writing papers on our history for school and college.
- arrangements for the Primate's visit on Feb. 21, newspaper interview and his lecture on Gomidas Vartabed as well as the work entailed in having an Armenian Cross donated by Mrs. Isabelle Vranian in memory of Dr. George Vranian, which the Primate blessed.
- work on the dinners and programs, Sevan and other circulars.
- in addition to the meeting sessions of the Martyr's Day Committee, arrangements for radio, television and newspaper interviews, with a special editorial on the Martyrdom, beside all the arrangements for the commemorative ceremony at the cathedral, the booklet and participating local clergymen, the Dicran Jangochian Chorale and rehearsals with the various boys who participated.
- arrangements for the regional meeting in October presided over by

the Primate and attended by Bp. Papken Vargabedian and Very Rev. Zaven Arzoomanian.

- the incidental odds and ends that go with the Boy's Club International Festival, State Fair and Food Bazaar.

Thanks to the personal efforts of Mrs. Ann Garian the endowment fund has become a reality which is another great step forward for this community.

It is hoped that with continued progress more time and energy may be applied in 1976 towards our educational progress and personal visits.