

PASTOR'S REPORT

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Dear Parishoners,

Another year has been added to the years of St. Mary's church life. The reports of the various church organizations, which will follow tell us that 1970 was a good year for our community. For our achievements we give thanks to our heavenly Father. In addition the credit goes to all of you, especially to four church organizations, namely, the Parish Council, Ladies Guild, Sunday School and the Choir.

Sacraments & Services

During 1970 we had 11 Baptisms, 5 Marriages, and 2 Burials. We had worship and Holy Liturgy services every Sunday. The following clergymen, either by exchange or visitation, celebrated Holy Liturgy in our church:

1. His Beatitude Archbishop Shnork, Patriarch of Bolis

2. Very Rev. Father Mesrob Semerjian

3. Rev. Fathers Barsamian, Maroukian, D. Hovanesian

Parish Council

Under the able chairmanship of Casey Kazanjian our Parish Council members conscientiously worked for the advancements of our church.

Ladies Guild

This fine organization has been the backbone of our church life. Through their diligent work and sacrifice under the chairmanship of Mrs. Bela Kazanjian they have been our pride and joy.

Church Choir

Under the able leadership of Dr. A. Avakian and since September Dr. Ed Sourian our choir enriched our liturgical services.

On the holy altar Deacons Khosroffian, Krikorian, Avedikian, and Kasparian faithfully served the church. We were also aided by Lillian Kasparian's contribution on the organ.

Sunday School and A.C.Y.O.A

The importance of Christian teaching for our youngsters makes our Sunday school a successful endeavor under the able leadership of Dr. Charles Kumkumian and Caspar Kasparian. Mr. Kasparian also trains altar boys and deacons for our altar. Thanks go out to all our Sunday School teachers for their unselfish work. Although the number of our teenagers is limited, two Davids, Terzian and Andonian, are doing their best for our Youth Group.

On the approximately 45 meetings of the above organizations I have endeavored to give guidance and leadership. My prayers are given for all who worked for these organizations.

Activities and Plans

1. Last year, together with Dr. Avakian and Dr. Essefian, we planned a series of lectures concerning Armenian Studies which were held at Georgetown University.

2. On February 10, 1970 I was invited to open the US Congress with prayer. On that occasion a paper about Vartanants was read in the Congress as well as printed in the Congressional Record.

3. Armenians in Baltimore are gradually increasing in numbers and I am happy to report that they have formed an organization with Mr. and Mrs. Net Aslanian as chairmen. We have encouraged them in the past and wish them success in their future activities.

4. Summer Camp was held during the last week of July when we took a small group of our boys, with Dean Shahinian as counselor, to the Chesapeake Presbyterian Camp. We should plan to expand the number of children participating to include the churches in Philadelphia and Richmond for the coming summer.

5. During the year of 1970 we celebrated our Martyr's Commemoration Day with the cooperation of Holy Cross Church community. We obtained from the prelacy a professionally prepared film on Vartanants for showing on that day.

6. Visitations- I made a special effort to appropriate considerable time for Pastoral Visitation: visiting new families, the sick, and giving comfort to the bereaved.

7. I kept a close relation with other churches for the promotion of ecumenical movement and spirit. It was this spirit that took me as far as Rome during last May.

8. Suggestions and needs of our church, as a living organism, is in need of inward and outward renovation. There are a few things which our church needs which I have previously informed you.

We have a Real Estate Committee that will help us to find a future location. This is a venturing plan as a result of farsightedness.

I pray that the spirit of harmony, love, cooperation, and sacrifice which are the results of Our Lord's grace in our souls may continue to lead us to a successful year ahead.

With good wishes and prayers,
January 31, 1971.

Bishop Papken
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