

The Religious Education Committee

The Religious Education Committee was formed in April 1982 to develop varied activities and programs for adults and young adults, to help increase participation by the community in the religious life of the parish. The committee members are Der Hayr, Yerezgin Anahid, Mrs. Grace Shahinian, Mr. and Mrs. George Derderian, with Miss Nora Topalian serving as Advisor.

A special reception sponsored by the Committee was held on June 19, to honor the members of the Choir, Altar Servers, and the teachers of Sunday and Armenian School. Awards were presented to 11 choir members and altar servers who have served 20 years or more, as well as 3 long-term Sunday School teachers. Yerezgin Anahid Kalayjian was also honored for her devoted service to the Sunday School, Armenian School and Choir; and Mr. and Mrs. Souny Kodjanian for their outstanding service as advisors to the A.C.Y.O.

A series of talks and discussions on Christian Faith and living a Christian life began in the Fall; it is open to young adults, aged 22 to 35 and takes place on the first and third Sundays of every month at 11-12 A.M. in St. Mary's Church Hall. Mr. Dean Shahinian conducts the group in informal sessions dealing with subjects pertinent to religious values in the Armenian Church and Christian life. The enthusiastic participation has been most encouraging.

During Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan's weekend visit to Washington in June, the members of the Parish Council and their families met with Serpazan Hayr for an informal dinner, talk and discussion. The discussion focused on the problems and concerns of those in attendance, as Parish Council members and as parishioners.

Planned future programs sponsored by the Committee will be the showing of a series of films on Sunday afternoons during the Lenten Season; lectures on subjects relating to the Armenian Church, the Bible, marriage and family life; making available at the Church bookstore a selection of books dealing with the early Church and Christianity.

Ann Derderian