

## PASTOR'S REPORT - 1982

The following is a summary of my activities as your Parish Priest, which I humbly offer to God and to you. At the conclusion of the year 1982, I completed the sixth year of my service as the Pastor of St. Mary's Parish.

### A. Sacraments and Services

1. The Divine Liturgy, special services and sacraments were celebrated and administered according to the church calendar and as they were needed.

In 1982, we had 11 baptisms, 3 weddings, and 9 funerals.

2. Counseling and Social Services. The areas covered were: personal and family counseling, job placements, housing, immigration and naturalization, health care, nursing home, Armenian heritage research guidance, personal recommendations, etc.

### B. Office Activities

1. Office Hours. We were fortunate to have for the third year, the dedicated services of Mrs. P. Whitty as our part-time secretary. The office hours were 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.--which she graciously extended quite frequently. The afternoon office hours and most of the evenings, I personally used to carry on my pastoral duties.

2. Publications. The parish newsletter, Shnorhali, was published four times during the year. Shnorhali-size special bulletins were published for Christmas, Easter, Vartanantz-Lenten, April 24 Memorial Day, Palm Sunday, etc. Numerous special bulletins, fliers, letters, etc., were also mailed for more effective communication with the parishioners. Our general mailing list has grown from 300, a few years ago, to well over 1,100; and the Shnorhali is mailed to 800 addressees. Thanks to Mr. Raffi Karahisar, our mailing list is now computerized. Thanks also to a host of volunteers who helped with the mailings. It must be noted that even though the Shnorhali has appeared only four times a year, we have mailed nine full-size bulletins in addition to the flyer-announcements. I consider our communication with the community is satisfactory, at least.

### C. Organizational

I continued my efforts to solicit ideas and suggestions, through private and group consultations, affecting our organizations and community life.

1. Parish Council. As the Pastor-President, I presided over and participated in the deliberations of the Parish Council at the regular and special meetings, with a few exceptions when I was out of town. I would like to acknowledge the dedication that they manifested throughout the year. Special recognition is due to the Chairman, Dr. E. Onanian, for his singular devotion and leadership.

2. Auxiliary Organizations. I continued to work closely with the church organizations and presided over their regular and special meetings: Women's Guild, Choir, Church School, Armenian School, A.C.Y.O.A. Jr. and Ararat Avak Society. We encountered some organizational difficulties with the A.C.Y.O.A. Jr. and the Hye Club; both of which remain semi-active at this time.

D. Educational-Charitable Activities

1. Our youth again benefited from the educational experiences provided by the St. Nersess Summer Study Conference. Both the Religious Study and the Decon's Training proved beneficial. In connection with this, we had two recipients of the Hovannes and Marie Simonian Scholarship which is annually given to our deserving youth.

2. For the fifth year, we continued to sponsor lectures throughout the year dealing with religious and cultural topics.

3. Lenten evening services were offered, not only for worship but also for an opportunity for meditation.

4. As you will note, Charitable Fund is now a line item in our budget. I am grateful that some of our parishioners are sensitive and responsive to this aspect of our church mission. I hope, however, that this fund will grow in time to do good to more people. We may wish otherwise, but the need is there.

5. I welcome the formation of the Committee on Religious and Educational Activities. The members are: Mrs. Grace Shahinian, Mr. George Derderian, Mrs. Anna Derderian, and Yeretzgin. They have, to this day, organized and presented a few worthwhile programs. The most important project they have undertaken is the Young Adult Discussions directed by Mr. Dean Shahinian. More activities will follow, and I hope we support them with our participation.

6. In conjunction with the Sunday School and the choir, we sponsored a seminar and workshop to promote understanding and appreciation of our church doctrines, rituals and practices. Our teachers and choir members in turn participated in the regional and Diocesan-sponsored programs for the same purpose.

E. Miscellaneous

1. Altar Care and Mas. With the construction of a new altar, we are now able to hold our services in the church hall during the summer months. I thank Mr. Richard Avedikian and Mr. and Mrs. Gary Avedikian who constructed and helped, respectively, make the project possible. Mrs. Agnes Baker, Mrs. Arnette Elenburg and Mrs. Marie Hagopian contributed towards the expenses, and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Betzig donated the painting. We also received an Armenian style bronze cross from the Kassabian family.

With the help of Mrs. A. Kumkumian, Mr. Simon Kumkumian, Miss A. Manigian, Miss A. Kavookian, and Mrs. Julie Oskoian, the altar received good care. We also thank the ladies who continuously and anonymously have prepared and donated the Mas during the past year. May they continue their services in good health.

2. Camp Nubar. During the months of July and August, which included my vacation period, I served for the third and last year as the Director of the A.G.B.U. Camp Nubar. This year, the camp season was reduced to six weeks. Through prior arrangements, Very Rev. Mesrob Semerjian and Deacon Onnig Terzian served our parish as visiting clergymen. I returned for ten days in August, including two Sundays, to attend to the parish needs.

3. Junior Choir. I am particularly proud that we now have a Junior Choir. I thank Yeretzgin who, along with her responsibilities within the Church School, the Armenian School, the Committee for Religious and Educational Activities, and as an excellent mother, spearheaded the project and continues to coordinate the rehearsals. I thank Mr. Socrates Boyajian, a young and promising musician, for assuming the directorship of the Junior Choir.

4. Visiting Clergy. Personally, and on your behalf, we welcomed among us the following clergy:

His Eminence, Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan, one of our former Primate, on the occasion of our church anniversary and the consecration of the new altar.

Very Rev. Mesrob Semerjian and Rev. Deacon Onnig Terzian, both as the visiting clergymen during my summer absence.

The visiting clergymen were hosted at the parish house.

5. Baltimore Community. This is the fourth year that we have been conducting Christmas Services close to the Armenian traditional date. The Armenian Association of Baltimore is a functioning body with an elected Executive Committee. I am closely in touch with them and have made myself available for their spiritual needs. I thank our choir for participating in the Christmas celebration. Baltimore is a growing community as more and more Armenians are settling there. My hope is that in the not too distant future, they would organize their parish. I have constantly encouraged them toward that goal.

As the new year begins, along with some of the accomplishments for which we are proud of and thankful to our Lord and grateful to all participating parishioners, we face some new challenges. The reorganization of the Hye Club and the A.C.Y.O.A. Jr. has been and will remain on the forefront of our concern. A few of our young parishioners have already put themselves under the task of organizing retreats for young adults, as well as for teenagers. Their efforts are commendable and deserve our full support.

Respectfully submitted,



Fr. V. Kalayjian, Pastor