

PASTOR'S REPORT
1993

At the conclusion of the year 1993, I completed the seventeenth year of my service as the pastor of St. Mary's Parish. The following is a summary of my activities of the past year as your parish priest, which I humbly offer to God and to you.

A. SACRAMENTS AND SERVICES

	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>
Baptisms	18	17	20	12
Weddings	10	10	7	9
Funerals	11	7	6	5
Engagements	7	5	3	2
Confirmations	1	2	-	-

Social Services, Pastoral Activities & Guest Clergy

In addition to the regular Sunday worship, special services were held:

1. Christmas Candlelight Service. On December 24, in honor of the Western Christmas celebration, we held a candlelight service. The spiritual message was delivered by Miss Nairy Ohanian. The participation of the young adults and violinists Mr. Norbert Sack, Miss Katharine Derderian and Dr. Socrates Boyajian added special beauty and enjoyment. Those who attended will attest that it was spiritually rewarding and uplifting.

2. Baltimore Community. This is the fifteenth year we have been conducting Christmas Services with our own choir participating. I continue to be in touch with the community and administer to its spiritual and social welfare.

3. Counseling and Social Services. The areas covered were hospitals; nursing homes; personal, pre-marital and family counseling; job placement; housing; immigration and naturalization; Armenian heritage research guidance; personal recommendation; scholarship applications; court appearances and translation; educational testing translations; mediation and/or marriage counseling; lectures; social service, etc.

B. OFFICE ACTIVITIES

4. Church Office. During the year we had the services of a part-time secretary. Office hours were 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM. The afternoon and almost all evening hours I personally use to carry on my responsibilities.

5. Publications. The parish newsletter, the SHNORHALI, and full-size special issues were published seven times, totaling over 300 pages (8.5 x 7) of information concerning our parish activities. Special thanks and gratitude I extend to Mrs. Grace Shahinian, the Editor of

the SHNORHALI. Our general mailing list is over 1200, and the SHNORHALI was mailed to 750 addresses. The average Sunday Bulletin printing was 100. In addition, numerous flyers, letters and reminders were mailed for direct and effective communication with the parishioners. Often we had to follow up with extensive phone calls.

C. DIOCESAN AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

6. Annual Diocesan Assembly. In May, I attended The Diocesan Clergy Conference and Annual Assembly held in Chicago, Ill. Please read the details in the Diocesan Delegates' report. Prior to the General Assembly the Clergy Annual Conference was held at the same location. I was elected as the chairman of the Conference. As a Diocesan Council member I attended the monthly regular meetings.

7. HAVAD. We continued to work on the Committee for the Propagation of the Faith of the Armenian Church (the Armenian acronym is HAVAD), I as the Vice-Chairman and Yeretzgin as the Secretary. Yeretzgin participated in an evangelical mission in July and I had the opportunity to sow the first seeds of Children's Christian education-oriented camps in Armenia.

8. Ecumenical/Religious Activities. On three occasions I was asked to represent the Diocese at (1) a conference organized by the Appeal of Conscience. It dealt with the status of Religious Communities in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union in the light of the fast-changing political environment; (2) a conference on Religion and Ethics in Public Policy, organized by the Brookings Institution and held on the Hill; (3) N.C.C. Board Annual meeting held in Baltimore, Md.; (4) White House signing ceremony of the "Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993", where 64 diverse religions - denominations - organizations were represented.

9. Armenian Evangelical Association. For a number of years now, we have welcomed the Armenian Evangelical Association's use of Church facilities for their meetings and worship. We had, in the past, frequently joined our efforts for common Armenian-Christian objectives. We shall continue to do the same.

D. ACTIVITIES RELATED TO ARMENIA

- Operation Winter Rescue
- Emergency Fund for Armenia
- Heat Armenia
- Washington based Armenian-American Health Assoc.
- Welcome the Prime Minister and other Parliamentary delegates of Armenia
- Celebration of the Second Anniversary of the Republic of Armenia , honoring the Ambassador of Armenia to Washington, D.C.
- Lift the Blockade Rally across the street from the White House
- Letter, Telegram and Telephone campaign for Armenia and Artzakh
- Orphans' Fund of Armenia
- D.R.E. sponsored Sister Sunday School program
- Acting as a conduit between some of the Peach Corps Volunteers and their parents
- Mr. Carl Bazarian continues to be an active member of the Diocesan FAR, newly reorganized and chartered PVO (Private Volunteer Organization) which has earned the respect of the U.S. Government and is entrusted with the task of distribution of U.S. aid.

As we are painfully aware, Armenia continues to be at the center of our attention, concern and care. It will continue to remain so and it will be a grave and tragic mistake to think otherwise.

E. ORGANIZATIONAL

I carried on a direct effort to solicit ideas and suggestions through private and group consultations on a variety of subjects.

10. Parish Council. As the Pastor/President, I presided over and participated in the deliberations of the Parish Council at the regular and special meetings, except when I was ill or out of town. It was a productive year and the Parish Council members should be commended for their harmonious and dedicated services and leadership.

11. Auxiliary Organizations. I continued to work closely with the church organizations and presided over their regular and special meetings except when they were held on Sunday after church services or when I had to be away for an emergency. Women's Guild, Choir, Shnorhali School, Jr. ACYOA, Three "M" Adult Fellowship, and Ararat Avak Society continued to function effectively. My special thanks to all the Executive Committees and their respective chairmen, principals, teachers and advisors for their diligence and dedication.

F. EDUCATIONAL, CHARITABLE AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

12. Our youth continued to benefit from the educational experience provided by the St. Vartan Summer Study Conference and St. Vartan Camp. Funds to encourage the participation of our youth were available from the Hovanness and Marie Simonian Fund, Valentine Bostonian Stahl Fund and the Fr. V. Kalayjian Fund.

13. Lenten Evening Services, Lectures and Meditations by guest speakers and parishioners were offered not only for worship but also for an opportunity to learn and mature in our Christian heritage. The Friday Night Lenten talks were offered along with a traditional light Lenten supper. For Lenten Sundays I invited our Young Adult parishioners to offer the Sunday Meditations in lieu of the pastor's sermons. We shall continue these inspirational activities.

14. Young Adults' Sunday. Along with the first Sunday of the month being Sunday School Communion Sunday, the third Sunday was observed as Young Adults' Sunday. To complement these Sunday programs a series of lectures were organized by Dean Shahinian under the title of "Armenian Life". I have observed that these lectures are received as very informative, educational and inspirational. They also provide opportunities for enhancing fellowship among our people. Please read the separate report on this program. The added program on these Sundays is the Adult Education Classes.

15. St. Mary's Charitable Fund. The Fund continued to be an avenue through which parishioners made contributions to help those in need of assistance. Also, the SHNORHALI School students regularly bring non-perishable food for the homeless of the Metropolitan Area. In addition to the Funds raised for Armenia, other charitable activities included helping to re-locate Armenians from Armenia.

16. I initiated and organized a Fall Lecture Series sponsored by St. Mary's Armenian College Connection. Youth Forum - a meeting of the church youth with the Primate. An exchange of ideas took place.

17. The 57th Anniversary of our Parish was celebrated in Dec. Memorial Candlelighting took place and during the Banquet that followed, a few of our parishioners received the "Pastor's Recognition Award" (Mrs. Flossie Baldadian, Mrs. Elizabeth Kevorkian, and Mrs. Hripsime Nazarian for their dedication and many years of service. As volunteers of the year, Lt. Col. and Mrs. J.K. Perkins and Mr. and Mrs. L. Torokhanian were also recognized.

18. "Armenia Sings" was a special musical/song concert which was presented as the "Hintlian Cultural Fund" affair.

19. Alexandria Ethnic Armenia Day Festival was a first and we commend its organizers and the Women's Guild for their participation.

20. Armenian Memorial Weekend (April 24) Art Exhibit and Memorial Service was held. This is becoming a tradition and we hope that it will receive wider support.

21. Aram Khachaturian was properly memorialized by a concert by Sahan Arzrouni sponsored by the Women's Guild and by the Arlington Symphony Orchestra.

22. Simthsonian's "Resident Assoc. Program" featured a series of lectures on "First Christians". Among them was a lecture on the Armenian Church "Church of a Nation" delivered by me.

G. MISCELLANEOUS

23. The list of the ladies helping to give the altar area the necessary care has remained strong. I thank them all. Special thanks to Miss Ann Kavookian who continues to take care of the Altar flowers and Christmas Greetings in addition to numerous other tasks she performs so lovingly.

24. Bookstore. We thank Mr. Gary Avedikian, who continues to maintain an exemplary bookstore, which not only provides cultural, historic and religious literature for those who wish to build their home libraries, but which also generates revenues for the church. Our gratitude to Gary, who, with secretarial help from Queenie, keeps managing it and the Parking lot rentals and maintenance.

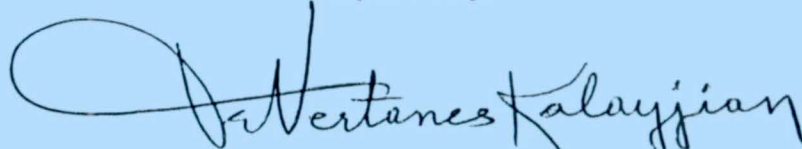
25. St. Mary's Balian Library. Our thanks to Mrs. Elizabeth Kayaian Garabedian, who continued her task with dedication in keeping the library open, available and accessible to those who need it.

26. We gratefully acknowledge that our no longer Anonymous Benefactor has again sent us \$1000 for the Building Fund. This year the envelope again contained an additional \$5000 for the Emergency Fund for Armenia. May God bless and reward him manifold in health and happiness. I would like to acknowledge the services and generous donations of Mr. Boris Ghazarian (plumbing, etc.), Mr. Murat Matikyan (air cond./heating), Mr. Serouj Badalian (repairs and maint.), and last but not least, Mr. Nubar Ayrandjian (renovations).

27. Acknowledgements. The names of the parishioners to whom I feel particularly indebted, both as a person and as the Pastor, are too numerous to list. I am indebted to all the Executive members of the church organization who, one and all, helped to make 1993 a rewarding year. I take the risk of sounding repetitious and routine by expressing my profound appreciation and gratitude to someone who happens to be, also, my life-partner. In a very real sense she has indeed become an indispensable partner/colleague/irreplaceable advisor in my pastoral duties and activities. So, on your behalf and mine I thank Yerezgin Anahid Kalayjian whose 20 years' service to Camp Nubar was marked last year with a special banquet. Lest we take it for granted, we thank Deacons Vartkes Keshishian, Mark Krikorian and Stolebearers Jack and George Guiragosian who continue their service with almost perfect attendance.

As the new year begins, along with some of the visible accomplishments, for which we are proud and thankful to our Lord and grateful to all participating parishioners, we face new challenges. With God's blessing and your cooperation we hope to meet these new challenges during the months ahead.

Prayerfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Fr. Vertanes Kalayjian". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "V".

Fr. Vertanes Kalayjian

PARISH COUNCIL 1993 ANNUAL REPORT

On February 6 and 7, 1993, we held the first two sessions of our Annual Parish Assembly. On Feb. 23, 1993 was held the third and final session. The new Parish Council was elected and on March 10, 1993 the election of the officers was held after the confirmation.

The 1993 Members of the Parish Council were:

Mr. Stephen Ohanian - Chairman
Mr. Vartkes Keshishian - Vice Chairman
David Sahr, Esq. - Secretary
Brig. Gen. Albert Kaehn, Jr. - Second Secretary
Mr. Hagop Safakian - Treasurer
Lt. Beth Ann Tutunjian - Assist. Treasurer
Col. Moorad Mooradian - Second Assist. Treasurer
Mr. Onnik Sivaslian - Member
Mr. Stephen Evereklian - Member

To further facilitate communication and coordination among the parish organizations, the Parish Council members were assigned responsibilities as liaisons.

We met regularly twice a month; in addition we had a special meeting with the executives of the church organizations. The central message we tried to convey was our concern for the betterment of the Church and its functioning as a family. We wrote in the March-April-May issue of the Shnorhali, and I quote:

"Dear Parishioners and friends, we appeal to you all to gather around the Church, which is our spiritual home. Let us make it vibrant with our presence and participation. That is our obligation, for the betterment of the Church and for the Glory of God. We shall work together to keep the quality of our church life high. In these efforts we need your help, your input; hand in hand let us try our best for the Church, for the Lord."

We are happy to report that to a great measure you responded to the call. 1993 Parish Council consisted of responsible, dedicated individuals, each and every one of whom tried to do his/her best to have a better harmonious year. I would like to thank the Parish Council Members and Der Hayr for their hard work, time and effort.

1. February 28, 1993 - A rally was held across the street from the White House. To express our solidarity with Artzakh and Armenia and to lift the blockade, this rally was initiated by Fr. Vertanes Kalayjian and Fr. Untzag Nalbandian of Trumbull, Ct., and close to 800 people participated; our parish was part of it.
2. The Parish Council approved the formation of a committee spearheaded by Yeretzgin A. Kalayjian to organize an Emergency Relief Fund for Armenia. Around \$25K was collected and the funds were used for medical supplies and 300 sleeping bags. Along with these activities we responded to the Diocesan appeal for Operation Winter Rescue led by Mrs. Lucy Murad and assisted by Mrs. Jeanette Torokhanian. On April 8 the last of the 11 containers were shipped. We thank the committee members and volunteers who helped make these two endeavors a success.

3. In addition to the above fund raising activities for Armenia, we decided to have a plate located at the entrance to the church, to collect funds for "Heat Armenia".

4. Prior to the March 20, 1993 Parish Ass'y meeting we had the good fortune to meet the First Ambassador of Armenia to the U.S., the Hon. Rouben Shugarian and First Secretary Mr. Garnik Nanagulian. We were truly elated and enthusiastic to see the First Ambassador of the Free and Independent Republic of Armenia among us. The event was a historic first.

5. Church Maintenance, the repairs and the renovation plan remain our major concern. The fire-damaged altar has been repaired cosmetically, and we are still waiting for plans (options) for the renovation of the church entrance and the Sanctuary. The committee members are working on the options, which will be presented for the Parish Assembly consideration.

The Canopy at the 42nd Street entrance was repaired by Mr. Mike Mehranian, president of Sevan Builders; we thank him.

The Altar brass candlesticks and other items which were damaged-tarnished because of the fire, have been goldplated. Mr. Vartkes Keshishian and Mr. Onnik Sivaslian were designated as coordinators of the repairs and maintenance. We thank them for their time and effort. We also thank Mr. Nubar Ayrandjian who volunteered and completed many repairs, including wall paneling of the old hall.

6. The Church Annual Picnic was held on July 11, 1993 at Seneca Park; as in previous years the Armenian Ass'y sponsored Interns as our guests. We thank the Co-Chairmen of the picnic, Mr. Onnik Sivaslian and Mr. Steve Evereklian who with a dedicated crew of volunteers did a fine job of servicing and entertaining those who dared the hot and humid weather to attend. A brief service was conducted by Der Hayr, choir members and Deacons.

7. This year on November 3,4,5,6 we had a successful and financially rewarding Bazaar. We thank bazaar co-chairmen Mr. Vartkes Keshishian and Mr. Onnik Sivaslian and bazaar treasurer Brig. Gen. Albert Kaehn for organizing and handling the job in a superb manner. Special thanks to the Women's Guild members for the enormous effort and for their dedication and to Der Hayr for assisting and leading us through. Our thanks also to the Parish Council Members and many parishioners for their time and devoted work.

8. As in previous years, as part of our fund raising activities, we had a rug sale on November 12 through November 14, 1993. We express our appreciation and many thanks to Mr. Arut Koseian for handling this year's Rug Sale. It was a successful one. We also thank Brig. Gen. Al Kaehn for handling the treasurer's work in a well-organized manner.

9. On October 30, 1993, an historic and proud day it was, when parishioners of our church gathered to celebrate the second anniversary of the Republic of Armenia and to honor its Ambassador, His Excellency Rouben Shugarian, his wife and other Embassy staff. The event was a successful one. We raised \$10K and a few days later we delivered the proceeds to the Embassy and presented a check in the amount of \$10K to the Ambassador.

We thank Mr. Hagop Safakian for organizing the event. Our thanks also to Mrs. Eva Safakian, Mrs. Suzan Ohanian and Mrs. Hrip Sivaslian for their hard work. We also thank Der Hayr and Yeretzgin for their leadership and coordination throughout.

10. On December 12, 1993 we had our Church Anniversary Candlelighting and an appreciation luncheon. Der Hayr recognized some parishioners for their long and devoted work. We express our thanks to Yeretzgin for organizing the event, to Mr. Onnig Janjigian for donating and cooking fish, and to the Mardirosian Family for the lamb shank and the fresh baked bread.

11. We had a New Year's Eve Party on Dec. 31, 1993. It was an enjoyable one. We thank Onnik Sivaslian, Mrs. Sivaslian and committee for their hard work. A short service was conducted by Der Hayr at the initial minutes of the New Year. The service spiritually nourished the attendees. Thank you, Der Hayr.

As St. Mary's Armenian Church Family we are fortunate to have a numerous devoted, hard working group of parishioners. We express our gratitude and many thanks to each and every one of them.

We extend our special thanks to Mrs. Grace Shahinian, who is managing the publication of the Shnorhali in an excellent manner. Our thanks to the Chairmen and the Executive Committees of the church organizations, Mrs. Lucy Murad, Chairlady of Women's Guild, Dr. Socrates Boyajian, Choir-master, our Deacons, choir members and organists, Mr. Gary Avedikian, booksotre manager, Mr. Jerry Hekimian and Ms. Linda Ekizian, Shnorhali School superintendents, Armenian and Religious sections, respectively, and each and every one of the teaching staff, and Ms. Ann Kavookian for her long years of devoted work.

As in past years, this year we had a harmonious and well-coordinated year, thanks to our Der Hayr for leadership, advice and counsel. We note with pride and commend Der Hayr for many years of dedicated service.

We also express our thanks and appreciation, our love and gratitude to our Yeretzgin for the leadership and activism in many organizational facets of our Parish for many years.



Fr. V. Kalayjian
Pastor - President



David Sahr
Secretary



Stephen Ohanian
Chairman