

ANNUAL PASTORAL REPORT FOR 1958

(To the General Membership Meeting of St. John's Armenian Church of Detroit, March 1, 1959)

By the grace of God we have completed a fruitful year. Our thanks go to the Church Auxiliary Groups and special commendation goes to our Parish Council for their fine cooperation and work. Herewith is a brief combined report of the activities of both pastors in the past year. Work done with the Church Auxiliary Groups and Parish Council will be dealt with by respective groups; here the subject will be pastoral responsibilities specifically -

1. **FACTS AND FIGURES:** Approximately 15,000 is estimated as the total number of the Armenians living in the greater Detroit area. Out of this, about 10,000 are believed to be connected with our church. We have on our mailing list 1,650 addresses; 1,400 of these are dues paying members of our church. This figure in its turn represents fifty percent participation in the newly introduced pledge system.
2. **CHURCH SERVICES:** Morning services and Badarak were celebrated weekly on Sundays. During the Lenten Season the Sunrise and Mid-day Services took the place of the Morning Service. Badarak was held on Christmas and Easter Eves, American Christmas, December 25th, which coincides with the feast of St. Stephen, The Protomartyr, Vartanantz Day and Maundy Thursday. Special Mid-day Services were held monthly, prior to the meetings of the Women's Auxiliary, Christmas Eve Service (December 24th) in English, weekly Wednesday evening services during Lent and also the Church Offices during Holy Week.

In addition to these, for the second time in the history of Detroit Parish the services of the consecration and ordination into priesthood were held in St. John's Episcopal Church on February 23rd. Officiating was Archbishop Mampre Calfayan, Primate of the North American Diocese. The guest clergymen who assisted were Rev. Fathers Hmayak Intoyan, Patriarchal Delegate of Jerusalem, Soukias Kalfayan, Pastor of the Armenian Churches in Wisconsin and Yeghishe Guizirian, Pastor of the Armenian Church in Worcester.

Deacon Garo Papazian, the ordinant, was consecrated as Father Diran and henceforth was appointed on the request of our parish as Associate Pastor of our Church.

Special commendation go to the deacons and also altar servers and choir for their unselfish and faithful services rendered to the church.

Sermons were delivered by the Officiating Pastor each week, with occasional preaching done by Church School Director, Deacon Levon Zenian. Sermons in English were given interspersely throughout the year.

It is gratifying to see an increased number of Sunday worshipers.

3. **SACRAMENTAL SERVICES:** The total number of baptisms during 1958 was 161 including 16 confirmations. A worthwhile project of Church School was to promote the baptisms and confirmations of the school children who had not received these sacraments.

29 marriages were performed; 15 of these were between an Armenian and a non-Armenian.

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From our parish, 52 funeral services were held; included in this number are those held out-of-town, at different churches and also from funeral homes.

4. PASTORAL CALLS AND VISITATIONS: The following are included under the pastoral calls: sick calls made to both homes and hospitals, consolation calls upon the death in the family, blessings of homes during the Christmas and Easter Seasons, pastoral visitations to both homes and places of business. Also, an attempt has been made to attend wedding receptions and baptism dinners and other happy functions. All of these afford occasions for the priest to come in contact with parish members and other Armenians in this community.

Whenever we were informed or heard of a parishoner being ill, no matter what time of the day or night we were needed, we've gone to their bedside.

The following steps are usually taken whenever a death occurs:

- (a) A visit is made to the bereaved upon hearing of the death,
- (b) A prayer is said at the funeral home the evening before the funeral,
- (c) Following the intombment at the cemetery, a visit is made at the home to bless their Hokejash,
- (d) Within the 40 day period following the funeral, another visit is made to the home for prayer and consolation.

As for blessing of homes, an attempt is being made to visit and bless the home of each parishoner at least once a year during the Christmas or Easter Seasons or upon special requests. As the precedent was established last year the home blessing visits are arranged by appointments, made by zones. These home blessings are made during these seasons when other parish duties permit.

The pastoral visitations are made when other duties permit.

Biannually, visits are made during Christmas and Easter to the Home of the Armenian Aged and Wayne County General Hospital in Eloise to the Armenian patients to hold services and to distribute gift packages. This is the project of Women's Auxiliary. This year a visit also was made during Christmas by the Women's Guild to the Neighborhood House Settlement in order to take clothing and toys.

5. PASTORAL COUNSELING: A regular part of pastoral counseling is the conference held with engaged couples prior to their marriage.

Many parishoners seek the counseling of their pastor during the time of family or personal troubles.

Oftentimes, the clergy are called upon to give recommendations, to translate, to sign official documents and to assist in offering personal help, by telephoning, writing letters and seeing officials.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE WORKS: At least one of the priests presides at Parish Council Meetings, which are held every other week. The same is true of all other Church Auxiliary Executive and Membership Meetings, and at times Committee Meetings. Presiding at meetings entails conducting, organizing and leading the work of the Auxiliary Groups.

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7. EDUCATIONAL WORK, PARISH PUBLICATIONS AND DESK WORK: Included in the Educational Work is the teaching in both Armenian and Church Schools of our Parish.

Oftentimes we are called upon to organize and to give formal and informal talks to Church Auxiliary Groups and other Armenian organizations and to non-Armenian circles.

We have accepted the responsibility of organizing educational programs on the parish level and also within the Auxiliary Groups. On the parish level there have been organized programs which have presented distinguished guests from out-of-town and overseas.

Religious classes have been continued for young married mothers.

The priests are also called upon to participate and to speak at local and Diocesan Conferences and prepare articles for our American-Armenian papers.

Torch-bearer, our parish paper, is a monthly four page publication. George Keurajian should be thanked for his donations of the plates of this publication. In addition to this, all announcements and advertisements and all the correspondence are handled by the priests.

Due to the work of the church secretary, Rose Miksiewicz, files are in order, as well as typing, mailing lists and records are up-to-date. The marriage and baptismal certificates are typewritten this year and also the letters of condolence and congratulations which are now being sent to homes on the occasion of weddings, baptisms and funerals.

8. ASSISTANCE TO OTHER PARISHES: We have extended brotherly help to St. James Armenian Church of Evanston, Illinois, until the time they acquired a priest of their own from Jerusalem. We are still helping the Cleveland Parish one week-end a month until such time as they acquire a priest of their own. We also assisted St. Mary's Armenian Church of Asbury Park, New Jersey.

9. PUBLIC RELATIONS WITH OTHER CHURCHES: Due to our membership in Detroit and National Council of Churches, we participated in the world order Conference of National Council of Churches, which met in Cleveland and also regularly participate in the work of Detroit Council of Churches. We are a member of board of directors and also members in the Public Affairs Department and in the Division of Christian Life and Work.

We have continued our active interests in Michigan Council of Churches, in Detroit Pastors Union, Eastern Orthodox Clergymen Association, United Eastern Orthodox Youth Group and Episcopal Diocese of Michigan.

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May God give us the wisdom and the strength to realize His ever blessed will through His body which is the Church.

Rev. Arnak Kasparian
Rev. Diran Papazian

ST. JOHN'S ARMENIAN CHURCH - PARISH COUNCIL
SCHEDULE OF CHURCH SUPPLIES - 1958

Exhibit B

1958			
Jan.	J. Kavlakian - office supplies	\$ 3.50	
	Ray's Tobacco - envelopes	4.80	
	Elliot Machine Co. - Stencils	6.38	
	Grand Bible Book Store - Supplies	6.79	\$ 21.47
Feb.	Harry H. Kelch - General books	20.29	
	Krieg Bros. - Candles and tapers	263.10	283.39
March	Tanner Moving - Transfer Org. Television	25.96	25.96
April	Ray Tobacco - Envelopes	6.40	
	Grand Bible Book Store - Church supplies	36.00	
	Elmhurst Hardware - Repair supplies	4.29	46.69
June	Ray Tobacco - Envelopes	5.00	
	Emerson Press - Pledge statements	32.00	
	Krieg Bros. - Candles, Plates & Supplies	325.59	362.59
July	Meyer Jewelry Co. - Baptism crosses	8.50	8.50
Aug.	Klebbas Stationary - Secretary supplies	3.99	
	Charles Kahayian - Grapes donation	24.50	
	Rev. A. Kasparian - Supplies & permit for mailing	18.80	47.29
Sept.	Bussings - office supplies	9.47	
	Elliot Address Co. - office supplies	6.38	
	Rose Miksiewicz - Freight for filing cabinet	4.87	
	Swift Printing - Letterheads	23.05	43.77
Oct.	Elliot Address Co. - New Cabinet & stencils	140.81	
	Krieg Bros. - Candles	88.00	228.81
Nov.	Bussings - office supplies	18.11	
	Elliot Adding Machine - office supplies	13.01	31.12
Dec.	Rose Miksiewicz - office supplies	5.00	
	Burns Office Supply Co. - office supplies	6.07	
	Rev. D. Papazian - office supplies	30.41	
	Bussings - office supplies	6.87	
	H. P. Tobacco Co. - Paper cups	11.75	60.10
			<u>\$1,159.69</u>

ST. JOHN'S ARMENIAN CHURCH - PARISH COUNCIL
SCHEDULE OF PRINTING COSTS - 1958

Exhibit C

1958				
Jan.	Metcalfe & Metcalfe	Bulletins	\$ 19.60	
	Duplex Envelope Co.	Pledge Cards	194.87	\$ 215.47
Feb.	Bunker Hill Litho. Co.	Torch Bearer	32.50	
March	Duplex Envelope Co.	Pledge Cards	48.01	
	M. Selvian	Easter Circular	25.00	
	Rick Dinoian	Photo Service	8.50	81.51
April	Metcalfe & Metcalfe	Easter folders	21.00	21.00
May	Bunker Hill Litho Co.	Torch Bearer	87.50	87.50
June	George Gargarian	Telegram for new church	1.21	1.21
July	Goodwill Printing Co.	Bulletins	38.50	38.50
Aug.	Goodwill Printing Co.	Bulletins	38.50	38.50
Sept.	V. Boyajian	Receipt Books	11.25	11.25
Oct.	Goodwill Printing Co.	Bulletins	90.00	
	Acme Letter Service	Torch Bearer	8.75	
	Acme Letter Service	Letterheads	7.00	
	Swift Printing Co.	Tickets for Jerusalem Day	9.15	
	Claramount Printing Co.	Torch Bearer	38.50	153.40
Dec.	Emerson Press Co.	Envelopes	70.00	
	Claramount Printing Co.	Torch Bearer	38.50	
	Shinarar Press	Armenian Christmas Circulars	27.00	
	Metcalfe & Metcalfe	Folders	23.80	159.30
				<u>\$ 839.14</u>

SCHEDULE OF REPAIRS

Exhibit D

1958				
Jan.	Power Heat & Engineer	Furnace repair	38.70	
	H. Jizmejian	Tools for lavatory	27.72	
	C. Kahayian	Tile for lavatory	13.00	\$ 79.42
March	Gratest Plumbers	Heating repairs-church	15.65	15.65
Aug.	C. Kahayian	Paint & locks	19.49	19.49
Sept.	H. Samarian	Repair of Cultural Hall for Sunday School	321.35	321.35
Dec.	Reid Electric Repair Co.	Repair of lights	18.50	18.50
				<u>\$ 454.41</u>

ST. JOHN'S ARMENIAN CHURCH - PARISH COUNCIL
 SCHEDULE OF MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES - 1958

Exhibit E

1958				
Jan.	Louie's Flowers	Flowers for Rev. Odian	16.50	36.
	A.C.Y.O.A.	Anniversary Ad	20.00	\$36.50
Feb.	E. Jizmejian	Membership dinner	147.78	
	George Cross	Charity	10.00	
	H. Jizmejian	Dishwasher-Membership dinner	15.00	
	Rev. A. Kasparian	Vestments Rev. Diran Papazian	98.74	271.52
March		Bank charges	4.16	4.16
April	Krieg Bros.	Rev. D. Papazian robe expense	132.28	
	H. Ekizian	Theft insurance	60.00	
	H. Jizmejian	Madagh Dinner	93.27	285.55
May	Richard Baylerian	Sponsorship of baseball team	50.00	
	Louie's Flowers	Easter palms	28.75	
	H. Kahayian	Madagh Dinner	18.00	
	Mrs. Dimekjian	Religious Books	9.00	
	Richard Baylerian	Sponsorship of baseball team	50.00	
	A.C.Y.O.A.	Convention ad		
	Niagara Falls		30.00	
	Rev. A. Kasparian	Robe - Rev. Diran Papazian	2.48	188.23
Aug.	National Conference of Christians & Jews	Annual donation	10.00	
	Paul Najarian	Religious books	375.00	385.00
Sept.	Rev. A. Kasparian	Charity	7.00	
	Ed Jizmejian	Combined school dinner	187.26	
	H. Jizmejian	Dishwasher for dinner	14.00	
	J. Kavlakian	1959 New Years Dance	250.00	
	E. Jizmejian	Lecture refreshments	10.07	
	M. Topalian	Gift for Ara Haig	46.90	515.23
Oct.	H. Jizmejian	Social expense-Cultural month	15.45	15.45
Nov.	H. Jizmejian	Social expense-Cultural month	17.20	
	A. Terterian	Social expense-Cultural month	15.00	
	H. Mampreian	Social expense-Cultural month	5.00	
	Northern Church			
	Athletic League	Athletic sponsorship	60.00	97.20
Dec.	H. Karagosian	Racks for pews	225.00	
	Archbishop Nersoyan	Gift	100.00	
	H. Ekizian	Insurance	106.00	431.00
				<u>\$2,229.84</u>

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC SOCIETY
Balance Sheet, December 31, 1958

Current Assets

Petty Cash		\$ 262.46
Cash in bank, Manufacturer's National Bank		8,398.60
Accounts receivable		585.00
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		\$9,246.06

Investments

Land contract receivable - Parish House		\$9,261.08
U. S. Treasury bills		148,881.00
Common Stock - Commonwealth Bank - At Cost		500.00
TOTAL INVESTMENTS		\$158,642.08

Land and Building

Lots adjacent to Cultural Building		7,796.66
Land at Southfield and Northwestern Highway		132,675.00
Parish House		17,200.00
Equipment		250.00
		\$157,921.66

TOTAL ASSETS		\$325,809.80
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NET WORTH - DECEMBER 31, 1958		\$325,809.80
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Net worth at December 31, 1958 represents the value of all assets of the Armenian Apostolic Society. No verification was made of the assets and liabilities at January 1, 1958.

HARRY H. KELCH
HARRY BOODAKIAN
CHARLES STAMBOULIAN

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND DISBURSEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1958

Revenues

Donations - Members		22,770.00
- In-lieu-of-flowers		6,328.50
Interest - U. S. Bonds		2,889.00
- Land Contract - Parish House		570.33
Dividends - Commonwealth Bank		15.00
Land Contract - Parish House - Principal portion		449.67
Revenue Stamps		145.50
TOTAL REVENUES		\$33,168.00

Disbursements

Land Contract - Land - Final Payment		67,466.16
Architect fees		26,847.00
Taxes		1,178.86
Interest		253.93
Secretarial Services		323.52
Miscellaneous		78.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		\$ 96,147.47

Excess of Disbursements over Revenue		\$ 62,979.47
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REPORT OF THE WOMEN'S GUILD OF
ST. JOHN'S ARMENIAN CHURCH - 1958

Executive Board for 1959:

Chairman: Harriette Gardner
Vice Chairman: Isabelle Cholakian
Rec. Secretary: Clara Dzovigian
Corres. Secretary: Angela Banerian
Treasurer: Jane Hovsepian
Advisors: Theresa Joboulian
Agnes Kirk
Margaret Paulian
Victoria Shouligian

At present we have 145 members, of which 11 joined in 1958. Our major accomplishments are our annual Mother's Day Dinner and the October Dinner and Dance and whatever assistance we can be to the Parish Council. There were 10 executive meetings and 10 general meetings held during the year 1958.

Our income, expenses and money on hand are as follows:

Bal. January 1	\$ 1,669.48
Receipts	<u>4,031.81</u>
	\$ 5,701.29
Disbursements	<u>2,504.25</u>
	\$ 3,197.04

Our major contributions during the year were \$500.00 for rental of Cultural Building and \$118.00 to the Polio Fund. Since our Pledge had been paid up in 1957, there was nothing paid during the year 1958.

Our future plans are to continue working with our Church and our calendar for 1959 will include:

February - Bake Sale
March - Easter Breakfast
April - Art Show
May - Mother's Day Dinner
June -
Sept. - Bake Sale
Oct. - Dinner Dance
Nov. -
Dec. - Elections

Sincerely,

Mrs. Harriette Gardner

ANNUAL REPORT OF LADIES'
AUXILIARY OF ST. JOHN'S ARMENIAN CHURCH

Executive Board Members - 1958-59:

Chairman	Mrs. Myrennie Mezian
Vice Chairman	Mrs. Haiganoush Toundaian
Recording Secretary	Mrs. Pegrouhie Javizian
Corresponding Secretary	Mrs. Dikranouhie Solakian
Treasurer	Mrs. Virginia Bedigian
Assistant Treasurer	Mrs. Lucy Mamasian
Advisors	Mrs. Shahanik Mertoian
	Mrs. Sourpouhie Mikaelian
	Mrs. Gadar Terzian

Number of new members:	10	Total Membership as of
Number of Executive Board Meetings	10	December 31, 1958: 239
Number of General Meetings:	10	

Financial Statement 12-31-57 to 12-31-58:

Total balance of hand 12-31-57	\$ 9,360.56
Total income - year of 1958	5,825.38
Total expense - year of 1958	<u>3,366.74</u>
Total balance on hand 12-31-58	\$11,819.21

Major Contributions Made 1-1-58 to 12-31-58:

Payment on \$15,000 pledge to Armenian Apostolic Society (Payment to date \$14,000)	1,000.00
Rent for 1958 for use of Armenian Cultural Building	500.00
Gifts for Armenians hospitalized at Eloise and to the Armenian Old Age Home (Easter and Christmas)	84.00
Christmas Gifts, donation to ACYOA and typewriter for Der Diran	83.95
International Institute - Participation in mortgage burning ceremony	50.00

Social - Cultural and Educational Activities:

1. Celebration of Poon Paregentan, members and public.
2. Picnic, members and public.
3. Appropriate program for commemoration of "St. Vartanantz".
4. Lenten Luncheon (Michinke Jash).
5. Participated in "Old World Mart" Bazaar - International Institute representing the Armenian Community of Detroit.
6. Participated and presented Armenian New Year's table in the program of "Holiday Tables of Many Lands" as facts and fancies of food organized by Detroit Round Table of Christians and Jews.
7. Kept permanent exhibit at International Institute - in charge of special window in which to exhibit various Armenian show-pieces both pertaining to our Church and otherwise.

ANNUAL REPORT OF LADIES'
AUXILIARY OF ST. JOHN'S ARMENIAN CHURCH

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Other Activities:

1. Visited Eloise General Hospital with Reverend Fathers both at Easter and Christmas. Also visited the Michigan Home for the Armenian Aged.
2. Prepared the "Mas" for our Church's needs for the entire year. Prepared the "Mas" for the Church School pupils.
3. Arranged for Hokihsankisd services for our former Pastor, Rt. Rev. Sahag Nazaretian and for all deceased members of our organization on Memorial Day.
4. Floral contributions to sick members and to deceased members. Donations in lieu of flowers for immediate family of members.

Banquets and Meetings:

1. Prepared the dinner for annual membership meeting.
2. Prepared the "Madagh" for annual commemoration for the Armenian martyrs of World War 1.
3. Prepared the Ordination Dinner for Rev. Fr. Diran Papazian.
4. Prepared the food for the social given in honor of college graduates.
5. Prepared the dinner honoring members of Komitas Choir, Church School Staff, Armenian School Staff and others.
6. Prepared the buffet for the New Year's Eve affair.

Future Plan:

At the September, 1958 general membership meeting the following resolution was unanimously passed: That upon completion of payment of the \$15,000 pledge (Balance \$1,000) it shall assume the entire financial responsibility for the erection of the three holy altars of the new church to be erected. For this purpose, the balance on hand as of 12-31-58 will be specifically reserved and also all future surpluses will be added to same.

Respectfully submitted,

Ladies' Auxiliary of
St. John's Armenian Church

By: Pegrouhie Javizian
Recording Secretary

ANNUAL REPORT OF ST. JOHN'S ARMENIAN CHURCH CHOIR
1958

President	Rev. Fr. Arnak Kasparian
Choirmaster	Arch-Deacon Harry H. Ekizian
Ass't. Choirmaster	Harry Avagian

		<u>1959</u>
Chairman	Harry Avagian	Ara Haig
Vice Chairman	Carole Bagdasarian	John Semizian
Treasurer	Bernard Akkashian	Bernard Akkashian
Corresponding Secretary	Virginia Warterian	Virginia Warterian
Recording Secretary	Nancy Hanoian	Sarah Ann Baykian
Publicity Chairman	Goldie Palaian	Mihran Hoplamazian
Librarian	Sarah Ann Baykian	Goldie Palaian
Advisor	Norma Kojolian	Carole Bagdasarian

During the year of 1958, the Komitas Choir of St. John's Armenian Church, held a total of twelve rehearsals, four General Body Meetings, four Executive Body Meetings, and attended a dinner which was given by the Parish Council.

We had a plate collection for General Council, and accepted the duties of the Ways and Means Committee. Rev. Fr. Arnak Kasparian, Messrs. Harry Ekizian and Harry Avagian were sent as delegates to the Watertown, Massachusetts convention. Our annual Lenten film was shown during the Holy Season. Our annual picnic was held at the Cultural Hall due to the rain.

In addition to our activities mentioned above, the Choir is proud to be able to serve the Church each Sunday morning.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Warterian
Corresponding Secretary

REPORT OF ARMENIAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL OF
ST. JOHN'S ARMENIAN CHURCH FOR YEAR 1958

Present Officers:

Chairman:	Mr. Aram Aznavorian
Vice Chairman:	Mr. Vahe Dolikian
Secretary:	Mr. Rouben Iguidbashian
Vice Chairman:	Mrs. Arshalous Nersesian
Treasurer:	Mr. Nerses Nersesian

Present Members: 30 Auxiliary Members.

From August, 1958 to January, 1959, we have held eight (8) executive meetings. We had one (1) general meeting of parents and teachers which was held on December 12, 1958 at Cultural Hall.

St. John's Armenian School Auxiliary Committee has been organized on August 11, 1958 to supervise and direct the Armenian School and generally to improve the teaching of the Armenian Language.

Registration of students was completed on September 13th. Classes began on September 14th and are being held three days a week.

- a. Saturday Classes held 9:45 A.M. to 12:00 Noon - total enrollment - 73 pupils. Classes on Saturday include singing, dancing and conversation, reading and writing.
- b. Sunday classes are from 9:45 until 10:55 A.M. Emphasis is placed on reading, writing of Armenian. Enrollment - 135.
- c. Tuesday Evening Class are held from 7:30 to 8:30 P.M. Enrollment - 20.
- d. The number of devoted voluntary teachers is twenty (20).

1958 to 1959 income was \$500.00, donated by the Board of Trustees of St. John's Armenian Church.

Expenses for 1958 to December 1958 was \$308.00.

Money on hand at beginning of year was \$192.00.

Our future plans include the following:

- a. Improve the teaching method.
- b. Increase pupil enrollment.
- c. Parent-teacher meetings.
- d. Graduation ceremony and a play by Armenian school students.
- e. Continue to stimulate the Armenian community in the progress of the Armenian School.

Armenian School Auxiliary Committee

Aram Aznavorian, Chairman

Rouben Iguidbashian, Secretary

ST. JOHN'S ARMENIAN CHURCH
ACYOA ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1958

Current Officers:

President	Rev. Diran Papazian
Chairman	Michael M. Hachigian
Vice Chairman	Rose Hanesian
Recording Sec'y.	Carole Bagdasarian
Corres. Sec'y.	Terry Karagosian
Treasurer	Helen Hanesian
Ass't. Treasurer	George Shahinian
Publicity Chairman	Y. Gladys Barsamian
Advisors:	Mary Jizmejian
	Mary Garabedian

Present Membership: 67

New Members during 1958: 9

No. of Executive Meetings: 12

No. of General Membership Meetings: 12

Major Activities during 1958:

February: Cleveland-Detroit Anniversary Ball - In Cleveland -
Proceeds to ACYOA Central Council
April: Frontier Frolics, Annual Hunchook
September: ACYOA Day Dinner Dance - Proceeds to Youth Camp Fund
November: Turkey Trot, Dance

Religious - Educational - Cultural

One Tuesday a month is devoted to matters Religious-Educational-Cultural. Some of the subjects covered were: Church Etiquette, sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion, Our Armenian Cultural Heritage, Significance of the Divine Liturgy, Current Controversies in the Armenian Church, the Armenian Church in Jerusalem, the movie "Our Mr. Sun."

Christmas Eve (December 24th) Services for the Parish. The evening's offering was sent to Jerusalem.

Plans for 1959:

Activities: Kismet, Annual Hunchook, April 5th
ACYOA Day Dinner, September 27th - Proceeds to
Armenian Seminarians in Jerusalem
Turkey Trot, November 25th

Publication of an ACYOA, Detroit Chapter, Newspaper - HYE ECHOES. First issue came out in January. The purposes of this newspaper are to bring the members of our organization closer together, to familiarize the Detroit Community with the ACYOA, and to help in our membership campaign.

To help in the publication of the Parish Paper - THE TORCHBEARER.

To find ways and means for raising funds to fulfill our pledge to the Church Building Fund.

To prepare an administrative booklet for future ACYOA officers.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL'S REPORT OF
ST. JOHN'S ARMENIAN CHURCH, DETROIT - FOR 1958

Parish Council Members

Chairman - Mr. Arshavir Yeghissian
Vice Chairman - Mr. Vahram Boyajian
Hon. Chairman - Mr. Bedros Manoogian
Secretary - Mr. Simon Mozian
Assistant Secretary - Mr. George Gargarian
Treasurer - Mr. Edward Sarkisian
Membership - Mr. Haig Jizmejian *Jack Karakian*
Armenian Cultural Building - Mr. Mitchell Topalian
Armenian Cultural Building - Mr. Jack Mamassian
In Charge of Accounts - Mr. Karl Sarafian
In Charge of Church Plates - Mr. Harabed Mikaelian

Twenty-seven meetings were held during the year. Representatives were designated for the various church organizations.

Our financial and moral support was given to further the Armenian Language and Culture Classes at Wayne State University.

A dinner was given honoring our Church School teachers, Armenian School teachers, Choir Members and former Parish Council members. Special honors were given to Archdeacon Ara Haig for his past twenty years of devoted service to our church.

According to the decision and desire of the 1957 Parish Assembly, since September, 1958, we have had the services of a church office secretary.

Auxiliary Committee for the furtherance of the Armenian Language School was organized under the chairmanship of Mr. Aram Aznavorian.

Two lectures were sponsored - the first by Miss Srpouhi Essefian of Washington, D. C. and the second by Mr. Noubar Berberian of Egypt. Whenever we organize a lecture for our English speaking members, even after urging them to attend, unfortunately the response of our Armenian speaking group is greater than the response of our English speaking members.

Racks were built on the backs of the church pews in which copies of the Divine Liturgy in Armenian and English were placed to assist our members in following the church services. These books have been donated mostly by our Church School members.

A "Graduates' Night" was held in June for Armenian College graduates. Copies of the books "Highlights of the Armenian Civilization" and the 25th Anniversary Book of St. John's Armenian Church were presented to the graduates. Thirty graduates were present. This was a very successful affair.

In April a Madagh and Requiem Service was held in memory of our one million martyrs of 1915.

Arrangements were made with the Woodlawn Cemetery to have a special section set aside only for Armenians. This section is to be known as the Armenian Community Cemetery. A memorial will be built in the center of this section in the shape of the dome of Holy Etchmiadzin.

The first year of the Pledge System has been more successful than anticipated. The financial stability of our church depends upon the support and wholehearted participation of all of our members in this program.