



January 27, ..... 1957

ARMENIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY RESURRECTION

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1956

At the first meeting of the Parish Council elections were held with the following results.

Stephan Der Margosian	Chairman
Puzant Arakelian	Vice-Chairman
Violet Bogosian	Secretary
Given Hoosigian	Treasurer
Gregory Abrahamian	Controller of Pledges
Harry Azarigian	Advisor
Harold Kevorkian	Advisor

Because of his work schedule Mr. Harold Kevorkian was unable to attend Parish Council meetings, therefore, Mr. Arshag Tarvaian replaced him as advisor in July 1956.

Parish Statistics for 1956.

Number of members	112
Baptisms	8
Weddings	1
Funerals	2

Our parish felt with deep sorrow the passing of Mr. Shavarsh Yessian and Mrs. Rose Yagoobian. The Parish Council extends heartfelt sympathy to their families.

Activities

This year two annual fund raising affairs were held. The 15th Annual Anniversary Banquet was held on April 15, 1956 from which a profit of \$317.00 was realized.

The Summer picnic with the Blessing of the Grapes was held in August with a profit of \$392.86.

During the Christmas season the Parish Council invited our parishioners to contribute toward a Christmas fund for our former Parish Priest, Father Alan Potookian. The total of the contributions was \$125.00 which was forwarded to Father Alan. Father Alan has acknowledged receipt of the gift and sends his blessings to the New Britain Parish for this expression.

The Parish Council organized and took part in the committee for raising funds for the Etchmiadzin Catholicosate Printing Equipment Fund thereby providing New Britain's contribution to this worthy cause.

### Schools

Our parish schools are continuing their constructive programs. Our Sunday School is one of which our parish can be proud. Presently there are 22 pupils.

The religious and Armenian schools are continuing their programs, however, under some difficulty due to the disrupting events of last Fall. Classes for the Armenian and Religious Schools were taught by Father Muron Gourdjikian. Last Fall when Father Muron suddenly left for Jerusalem our Parish was confronted with a slight crises. Recognizing the importance of the problem The Ladies' Aid requested Mrs. Lillian Azarigian to temporarily assume the responsibility of the Religious School. Mrs. Azarigian accepted the position for which our parish is grateful to her. The Armenian School classes, however, stopped. Mrs. Azarigian carried on in this capacity until the end of December. Presently Mrs. Susan Der Margosian has volunteered to carry on the religious instruction until the return of Father Muron. The Religious School has 4 pupils.

The Parish Council gratefully acknowledges the voluntary work of all our teachers.

#### In the Sunday School:

Miss Mary Azarigian - Supervisor  
Miss Violet Bogosian  
Miss Arlene Arakelian  
Mrs. Margaret Bagdigian  
Mrs. Gloria Azarigian  
Mr. Paul Abrahamian  
Mrs. Roxie Maljanian - Substitute

Also our thanks to Mrs. Lillian Azarigian and Mrs. Susan Der Margosian who are helping carry on our Religious School in this time of need.

### Organizations:

Our Church is fortunate to have an active and co-operative Ladies' Aid Society. The Ladies' Aid has supported the programs of the Parish Council and has responded to every request made of it. The Ladies' Aid again added to our Church with the installation of complete kitchen cabinets. The present membership is 38. The Parish Council recognizes the vital part the Ladies' Aid takes in the progress of our Church and gratefully acknowledges its efforts.

An ACYOA Chapter has been organized again in our Parish. Its present membership is 8. The Parish Council looks forward to the formulation of a strong, active chapter which will once again fulfill the need of youth contribution to our Church programs.

### Church Service

Regular weekly services have been held throughout the year. The Devine Liturgy has been celebrated every two weeks and with the service of our Deacons and Choir, Morning Services have been held every other week, thereby, enabling our Church to remain open every Sunday.

During September, Father Gourdjikian was suddenly recalled by the Jerusalem Brotherhood. No indication was given as to how long he would be away and as yet no definite date has been set for his return. From reports received it is hoped that he will be back by April 1957.

Meanwhile, your Parish Council has attempted to have a clergy in our Parish at least every other week.

The Parish Council wishes to again express its gratitude to our Deacons, Mr. Ghevont Der Margosian, Mr. Lazar Mancogian, Mr. Sarkis Azarigian and to our Choir and Choir Director, Miss Sarah Yagoobian for their conscientious services in carrying on Morning Services when no priest is present. All parishoners should realize as the Parish Council does that because of the voluntary services these individuals are giving, our church has been open every week to fulfill the spiritual needs of the faithful. In addition to this the financial income of the Church has been augmented due to donations received every week.

It is regrettable that we must include in this section a shameful incident upon one of our Church officials. On Sunday morning October 14, 1956, Archdeacon Ghevont Der Margosian was stopped on the way to church by Mr. John Shahinian who challenged his right to conduct services. Mr. Der Margosian was injured and required medical care.

The Parish Council feels strongly obligated to condemn this act as it was performed on a Church official serving at the request of the Parish Council. The Diocesan Council has been informed of the incident and any decision by them may be forthcoming. Your Parish Council wishes to alert all our parishoners that any act of violence or threat is detrimental to our Church and must not be tolerated.

Church Property

This year our Church had two improvements:

1. The addition of complete kitchen cabinets donated by the Ladies' Aid.
2. The completion of the stained glass window program. The last three windows were donated by Mrs. A. Sarkisian, Mr. and Mrs. Manoog Bagdigian, and Mr. and Mrs. Toros Omartian. We gratefully thank the donors of these gifts.

Plans for reworking the Church parking lot were delayed due to the negotiations on the sale of the Church; however, an investigation is presently being made into a minimum reworking of the area to improve the appearance and provide better facilities for our parishbners.

Sale of Church

In accordance with the decision of the Special Parish Assembly held on April 18, 1956 the Parish Council proceeded to attempt to sell the present property and begin construction of a new Church. The following Building Committee has been selected by the Parish Council and confirmed by the Arachnord.

Mr. Arthur Simonian	Mr. Stephan Der Margosian
Mr. Jack Yagoobian	Mr. Harry Azarigian
Mr. Monty Bagdigian	Mr. Haig Yessian
Mr. Gregory Abrahamian	Mr. George Simonian
Mr. Sarkis Grigorian	Mr. John Bogosian
Mr. Harry Hartunian	Miss Sarah Yagoobian
Mrs. Julia Garabedian	Mrs. Margaret Bagdigian
Mr. Hurach Azarigian	

Advisors:

Mr. Ghevont Der Margosian  
Mr. Puzant Arakelian  
Mr. Lazar Manoogian  
Mrs. Arshaloos Hoosigian

The above committee will begin its function upon the sale of the present property.

Unfortunately the prospective buyers, The AME Zion Church, after requesting three extentions to hold the sale informed our Parish Council that they were unable to obtain sufficient funds and requested to withdraw their offer. Our architect, Mr. Vacca, was immediately notified not to proceed any further with our plans until another buyer was found. From the \$1,020.00 deposit that the AME Zion Church had given, architect's and advertising costs were deducted and the balance returned to the AME Zion Church.

We are still attempting to obtain another satisfactory offer and this program must continue until a sale is finalized. Your Parish Council strongly feels that this project is vital to our community and recommends the future Parish Council take any additional steps it deems necessary to expedite the sale of the present property and construction of a new church.

Recommendations for action by Parish Assembly

1. That the required membership dues per person be a \$.25 per week minimum pledge. (\$13.00)
2. That the price of cemetery plots be increased to  
\$50.00 each plot for members  
\$250.00 each plot for non-members.



Stephan Der Margosian  
Chairman



Violet Bogosian  
Secretary

