

REPORT OF THE  
SEARCH COMMITTEE  
TO THE  
1986 PARISH ASSEMBLY  
OF THE  
ARMENIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY RESURRECTION

During the Jan. 27, 1985 annual Parish Assembly there was discussion as re -  
pects a future successor to Fr. Vartan. As a result of that discussion the  
following motion was introduced and approved: "to form a five member Search  
Committee to search for a replacement for Fr. Vartan in the event of or pre -  
paratory towards his retirement". The members of this committee, elected and  
approved by the Assembly were Harry Badrigian, Steve Der Margosian, John  
Maljanian, Rose Mosey and Harry Hougas.

The first committee meeting was held on Feb. 19, 1985 in the Parish Council  
Room with all committee members present, and including Fr. Vartan. The first  
order of business was to elect a chairman and secretary and these were Harry  
Hougas and John Maljanian respectively. After much discussion the committee  
decided it would be appropriate to initiate activity by directing a letter to  
the Archbishop stating the motion, the reasons therefor, the committee members,  
and requesting his guidance and counsel by personal meeting with him at the  
Diocese. Such letter was sent on Mar. 19, 1985. Acknowledgement was received  
on Mar. 28, 1985 stating that the Archbishop would contact us after the  
forthcoming Diocesan Assembly to set a date and time.

A date was subsequently arranged for July 18, 1985. Attending were Steve Der  
Margosian, Harry Badrigian, Harry Hougas and Parish Council Chairman Given  
Hoosigian. We explained the

purpose of the Search Committee and requested the advice of the Archbishop. He in turn indicated he wished to discuss the subject with Fr. Vartan first and would thereafter contact us. No word was received until our annual banquet on September 13, 1985 at which time the Archbishop announced the request of Fr. Vartan to retire in June 1986. At this juncture the Committee stepped up its efforts so as to now find definite candidates to succeed Fr. Vartan.

Word was received <sup>that</sup> ~~the~~ Fr. Michael Buttero might be interested in returning to New Britain. Given Hoosigian, Steve Der Margosian and Harry Hougas had an exploratory discussion with Fr. Michael and concluded he was a potential candidate subject to the Archbishop's approval. The Committee was so appraised. Additionally we had heard about several priests in the Western Diocese who had no parishes. Also we considered the possibilities of former individuals who had left the priesthood but might wish to return.

These subjects were discussed with the Archbishop who advised us 1) the priests in the Western Diocese did not wish to have parish responsibilities 2) consideration of former priests returning to the priesthood was an item for future review and discussion by higher authority and we should not entertain that possibility for our parish at this time 3) there was no candidate that the Diocese could refer to us at this time, and 4) he would consider Fr. Michael as a candidate if the parish and Fr. Michael could arrive at mutually satisfactory arrangements.

The Search Committee met on January 19, 1986 with all committee members present, reviewed all activity to date, considered various options of no

priest, temporary priest, and visiting priest, and thereafter unanimously agreed to recommend to the Parish Assembly and Parish Council that consideration be given to approving Fr. Michael as our parish priest, subject to working out mutually satisfactory arrangements, approval of these arrangements by Church members at special parish assembly, and final approval as required by the Archbishop.

A verbal report of the foregoing was made to the Parish Council on January 20, 1986.

Respectfully Submitted,

Search Committee

*Harry Hougas*  
Harry Hougas, Chairman

Harry Badrigian

Steve Def Margosian

*John Maljanian*  
John Maljanian

Rose Mosey