

MESSAGE FROM PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Dear Parishoners:

The year 1989 started with the entire Armenian Community engulfed in the great tragedy from the December 7, 1988 earthquake that struck Armenia. The Parish Council of St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church worked diligently, day and night, in any way we could on the earthquake relief efforts with the complete assistance of the entire community. To date, we have remitted \$145,000 to the Diocesan Earthquake Fund for the rebuilding of Stepanavan. These monies poured in from all segments of the Greater Cleveland Community at-large. However, our efforts must not stop here, this must be an on-going concern of each and everyone of us. Also, during 1989, a Blood Drive was held on the premises of St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church with the cooperation of the entire Armenian Community and the American Red Cross. This effort was spearheaded by Serjik Nazarian.

As mandated by the 1988/89 Parish Assembly to acquire the services of a full-time pastor, Very Rev. Sooren Chinchinian assumed the pastorate of St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church in February, 1989.

The Parish Council commends the following:

- The 25th Anniversary Committee and its Chairman, Mona Karoghlanian, for an excellently orchestrated celebration on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the consecration of St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church. The 25th Anniversary brought us all together in celebration with pride and nostalgia in the presence of His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America; as well as former pastors Rev. Fr. Nersess Jebejian, Rev. Fr. Diran Papazian and Rev. Fr. Arshag Khatchadourian. The 25th Anniversary was a success in every facet and will be recorded as one of the most memorable events in our parish's history.
- The Cleveland A.C.Y.O.A. Chapter and its members. The youth of our community are our future. We have been blessed with an A.C.Y.O.A. Chapter chockful of intelligent, talented and caring individuals. The A.C.Y.O.A. Chapter is very strong and active. They are vital for our survival. Among the many activities sponsored by the A.C.Y.O.A. was a National Religious Retreat in March of 1989. The Retreat Leader was the Rev. Fr. Mardiros Chevian, Rector of St. Nersess Seminary. The Retreat was very enlightening and meaningful. Our A.C.Y.O.A. Chapter has the complete blessing and support of the Pastor and Parish Council in hosting the 1990 A.C.Y.O.A. General Assembly and Sports Weekend, during the upcoming Labor Day Weekend. This is the first time since 1953 that the A.C.Y.O.A. Convention will convene in Cleveland. The entire community will be called upon for their support, active involvement and presence.
- Our deacons and choir. St. Gregory of Narek is indeed fortunate in having two extremely dedicated and unassuming young men serving on our altar. Haig Arpajian serves as deacon while Serop Demirjian serves the altar in his rank as an archdeacon. Our entire choir is to be commended for their unlimited devotion each and every Sunday. Special commendation goes to Thelma Bagdasarian as Choir Director, as well as to Anita Arpajian, our organist. In 1991, St. Gregory

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE (continued)

of Narek Church Choir will host the Choir Convention. The last Choir Convention was hosted by Cleveland in 1972..

- Our Sunday School in the past two years has grown and rejuvenated with Ann Karayan as Superintendent -- a very kind and loving person. The entire Sunday School staff radiates warmth and trust with our children.
- The monthly publication, PAROS, has the most conscientious and professional staff with Florence Goekjian as Editor, Ann Karayan as typist and special assistants Mary Walsh and Mary Arslanian.
- The Women's Guild zealously continues helping whenever they are called upon by any church affiliated organization, in addition to carrying on with their respective activities.
- The Mr. & Mrs. Club has increased its membership and we are looking forward for this organization to become more involved in activities.
- Also, many thanks to Nouritza Ghazarian for preparing mas.
- The Parish Council commends Mona Karoghlanian for assisting in the church office, with her secretarial and administrative skills. Many thanks to Anita Arpajian for typing the Annual Report as well as contributing her secretarial skills whenever called upon.

Reaching out into the Greater Cleveland community, the Parish Council spearheaded a dinner for the hungry at the City Mission on December 7, 1989. This date was selected in commemoration of the 1st anniversary of the earthquake. It also showed a token of our appreciation to Cleveland for their overwhelming response during the earthquake relief program by remembering the city's needy. The response to this project was overwhelming by the Armenian community. The Parish Council hopes to institute this project twice a year -- April 24 and December 7.

Serving as Chairman of the Parish Council has been a privilege for me -- I would like to take this opportunity to express my most sincere appreciation to the following members of Parish Council: David Andonian, Ara Bagdasarian, Janis Nazarian, Jim Nazarian, Krikor Yessayan and Harold Zahigian. We would be remiss if we did not thank our dedicated Diocesan Delegate, Jack Hacherian. They have all served their church with interminable dedication, devotion and as a labor of love. The mission of the Parish Council was to work collectively to serve our church and tend to needs of our church family.

As we look to a new decade, we pray for the continued growth of the Parish of St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church in meeting the needs and challenges that the 1990's will bring forth.

Respectfully,

*Florence Karoghlanian*

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Chairman  
Parish Council