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ST. GREGORY OF NAREK ARMENIAN CHURCH
678 RICHMOND ROAD
RICHMOND HEIGHTS, OHIO 44143

ANNUAL REPORT - 1997
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Կիրակի, Փետրուար 15, 1998 - ժամը 1:00-ին յետ միջօրէի

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
Sunday, February 15, 1998 at 1:00 p.m.



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St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Apostolic Church



**St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church
 Annual Report - 1997**

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MINUTES OF THE 1996 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

ST. GREGORY OF NAREK ARMENIAN CHURCH
CLEVELAND, OHIO

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1997

OPENING PRAYER AND PRAYER FOR DECEASED PARISH MEMBERS

The Annual Parish Assembly was called to order at 1:00 P.M. by Father Simeon Odabashian. He opened the meeting with a special prayer for the deceased members of our church (Marie Bosnoian, Anahis Davidian and Louise Ohanian).

WELCOMING REMARKS BY FR. SIMEON ODABASHIAN

Father Simeon reviewed highlights of the year and thanked Parish Council members for their hard work and dedication. He emphasized unity and encouraged parishioners to participate and serve their church. He stated the importance of the upcoming 1997 Diocesan Assembly sponsored by our parish and encouraged everybody to attend the events. He read parts of his report and shared the joy and happiness that came to him with his ordination.

WELCOMING REMARKS BY DR. SEBOUH SETRAKIAN, PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Dr. Setkrakian emphasized the importance of serving the church. He recognized the efforts of volunteers and expressed appreciation. He invited parishioners to serve on committees and work together. He spoke about the financial status of the church and said that more than the church's income is being spent. Dr. Setrakian recommended activities be held to raise money for church use. He gave the activity of the 1997 Diocesan Assembly as an example of a project to raise money and encouraged everyone to participate. He thanked the out-going Parish Council members, Robert Bagdasarian, Mona Karoglanian and Naz Yessayan for their loving service on the Parish Council.

VERIFICATION OF DUES-PAYING MEMBERS

Naz Yessayan took roll call. 52 members were present, constituting a quorum.

ELECTION OF PARISH ASSEMBLY OFFICERS

Dr. Setkrakian invited the Nominating Committee led by Deacon Serop Demirjian to conduct the election of the Chairman and Secretary of the day. The candidates were as follows:

Chairman of the Day
Jay Bagdasarian
Alice Bagdasarian

Secretary of the Day
Anna Karayan
Mary Arslanian

Jay Bagdasarian and Anna Karayan were respectively elected Chairman of the Day and Secretary of the Day.

Jay announced that the proceedings were being tape recorded to aid the Secretary in transcription of proceedings. He said that only dues-paying members would be able to vote on motions on the floor.

Jay referred to Father Simeon's report, and read an inspirational excerpt to the assembly...

"For all the countless hours spent in negative talk about this one or that one, I challenge everyone who reads my words to redirect that energy in a positive and edifying direction by holding up God's holy name and keeping alive our beautiful and precious unique Armenian tradition for generations to come."

MINUTES OF THE 1996 PARISH ASSEMBLY

An amendment to the minutes was made by Thelma Bagdasarian. She referred to page 8, under the heading "Annual Assembly Minutes", in the last paragraph, the name of "Alan Borazanian" should be replaced with "Richard Arslanian".

ELECTIONS - CONDUCTED BY THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Continued)

Regarding the Auditing Committee, Dr. Setrakian pointed out that there is a church-wide change in the by-laws of the committee. To begin the new system of rotation, initially, the persons elected will serve varying terms. The person receiving the highest amount of votes will serve a 3-year term, the person receiving the second highest amount of votes will serve a 2-year term and the one who receives the third highest amount of votes will serve a one-year term. After this year, there will only be one person elected to the Auditing Committee, with only one person going off the Committee. There was discussion regarding the implementation of the new Auditing Committee by-laws.

Ballots were collected. The Nominating Committee departed to tally the votes.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

1997 DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY (MAY 1 THROUGH MAY 4, 1997)

(Co-Chairmen: Mona Karoglanian and Eileen Hacherian)

Mona presented an up-to-date report on the progress of the 1997 Diocesan Assembly Committee. She encouraged community participation. Mona said that there will be 200 to 250 Clergy, Diocesan Delegates, Women's Guild Delegates, Yeretzgins, Parish Council Chairmen and friends coming to Cleveland to attend the Diocesan Assembly.

Mona said that an "Armenian of the Year" is yet to be announced by the Diocese, who will be honored at the banquet.

Dr. Kenneth Zahka was nominated as "friend of the Armenians". Mona listed activities that will be taking place, along with announcing the schedules of the 3 business sessions and luncheons, banquet and social activities with a final gathering on Sunday at our church for Divine Liturgy and a delegates/Clergy/community farewell brunch.

The Ritz-Carlton Cleveland and Renaissance Hotels were chosen as the sites for various planned events. There will be sight-seeing activities for all attendees of the Assembly

ST. GREGORY OF NAREK ENDOWMENT FUND

Dick Aurslianian said that instead of sending money elsewhere that a local Endowment Fund be established. He said that anyone who wants to establish an Endowment Fund in their name should bring it to the attention of the group. If there is an interest, a Fund could be setup. Richard explained that whoever sets up a fund would receive the interest income during ones lifetime with the assets going to the church. There was discussion of the tax benefits to the one who establishes the fund. Dina Aurslianian said that the Finance Committee could possibly work on the Endowment Fund concept. Jay said the church could work with the professional financial and legal guidance in conjunction with the Finance Committee and create a format should someone wish to participate in an Endowment Fund. There was further discussion of the proposed Endowment Fund.

Dick Aurslianian suggested the creation of two community groups: a "A Garden Club" and a "Church Visitation Committee". He said that he is circulating information on the proposed formation of the groups.

1996 ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES/FINANCIAL REPORT

Regarding the Parish Council's Annual Report, Thelma Bagdasarian made three revisions which were as follows:

- October 13, 1996 should be deleted, as the whole Cultural Day event took place only on October 20, 1996.
- December 22, 1996 The Church School Christmas Pageant Reception was sponsored by the Guild (not the Choir as is written). Replace "Choir" with "Guild".
- December 24, 1996 to be deleted. There was no observance of Western Christmas Eve Service of Carols.

1996 ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES/FINANCIAL REPORT (Continued)

Sue Mirakian moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as printed. Jack Hacherian seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

APPROVAL OF THE 1997 BUDGET

Alex Bagdasarian moved to accept the 1997 budget as submitted. Jack Hacherian seconded the motion. The motion was passed as submitted.

DIOCESAN DELEGATES REPORT (Page 16)

Jack Hacherian, Diocesan Delegate, corrected the typing errors in his report as follows:

- In the last paragraph, second sentence, the figure "\$3,500.00" should be \$3,500,000.
- In the last paragraph, the last sentence, the final figure should read \$1,247,000.

PARISH AUXILIARY REPORTS

Choir Treasurer's Report - Thelma Bagdasarian said that the church plate offering from one of the Sundays when the feast of the Assumption was observed had not been received by the Choir. She said traditionally, this money is used as the Choir's Dues to the Choir Association. Thelma asked the amount of the plate collection of Sunday, August 18 (Observance day of the feast) and the amount of the check that was forwarded to the A.A.C.C.A. (Association of Armenian Church Choirs in America).

Grace Arslanian questioned the bank fee expense item of \$90. Deacon Serop Demirjian, Treasurer, explained the entry. He said that the bank fees were going to be removed and adjusted, but since the record showed the charge, the Treasurer's report had to reflect the actual status of the account.

Sam Mirakian said that with the exception of the choir report questions, he moved to accept the Auxiliary Reports as submitted. Louise Demirjian seconded the motion.

Alice Hacherian said that of all the auxiliary organizations, the only group that paid the parish council assessment was the Social Club. 60% over \$500 in treasury assets are assessed by the parish council. The Social Club paid their assessment in a timely fashion. Bob Bagdasarian clarified the procedure by suggesting that at the end of the year a check should be written by the organization's treasurer turning over the assessed funds to Parish Council along with their annual report.

At this time Naz Yessayan, Treasurer, responded to Thelma Bagdasarian's earlier request. He said that on September 23, 1996, a check was sent to the A.A.C.C.A. in the amount of \$102. Naz commented that he recalled in the past that when the Treasurer's report was turned in for auditing, the assessment check was also provided. He said that the only group which paid their assessment timely was the Social Club.

Dr. Setrakian said that "reminder letters" will be prepared for mailing to auxiliary organizations, except the Social Club, for their forwarding their treasury assessments to the Parish Council.

Bob Bagdasarian made a motion that when a church organization submits their year-end report that a check should be stapled to their report so that it is all handled at one time. Naz Yessayan seconded the motion. The motion was carried. Thelma suggested that at the end of the year when reminders are sent to organizations about their reports being due, that at that time there could be an additional reminder of the need to submit their assessment when their treasury reports are submitted.

Jay amended the motion adding "...when the year-end reminders go out to the various organization treasurers, to state that they need to include their assessment with their reports to the Parish Council." Jack Hacherian seconded the amendment. The amended motion was passed.

ELECTION RESULTS (Continued)

that rules and regulations are already in place to resolve problems. Jay added that the Parish Council is always open for comments and suggestions. Also, that Father Simeon, from experience, is open to any concerns that anyone has. Jay commended the Parish Council and Father Simeon for the time and love they have for the church.

Ara Bagdasarian thanked Jack Hacherian for the work he did as Diocesan Delegate saying that he, as the newly elected Delegate, would call upon him for guidance and words of wisdom.

Ara thanked the following who put behind us the "misappropriation of funds" issue and restored credibility to the office of Treasurer, and to the church by accounting for every penny: Naz Yessayan, Cindy Russell, and Jay Bagdasarian. He thanked Father Simeon and Dr. Sebouh Setrakian for aiding and allowing the community to put those happenings behind us. Ara also commended the Parishioners who bounced back from the depth of concern, restoring credibility. Jay Bagdasarian also noted Archi Andonian's key role in this regard.

Jay requested the membership to again read Father Simeon's message which encompasses and reinforces many of the ideas and goals presented.

Concluding Discussion

Dick requested to know the consensus of the assembly regarding a "Grievance Committee". The response from many members was an audible agreement saying "do it". Dick said he would take care of it by forming a small group. He added that he will keep the Parish Council advised of their activities.

Alice Hacherian commended Jay Bagdasarian on his fine handling of the meeting and Anna Karayan who served as Secretary of the Day.

Jay said that Father Simeon made an administrative point, showing Jay last year's meeting notes that we voted to mail the minutes to all dues-paying members within 30 days rather than waiting until the next annual meeting. He asked whether the membership would want to revert back to historical methods of handling the minutes? Anita Arpajian made a motion to remain in the spirit of what was decided last year because it helped everyone--to mail the minutes to dues-paying members within 30 days of the Annual Assembly Meeting. Mona Karoglanian seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER

Mona Karoglanian moved to adjourn the meeting. Grace Arslanian seconded the motion.

Prior to adjournment, Grace asked that the out-going Parish Council Members be commended and recognized. Jay again expressed appreciation to the Bob Bagdasarian, Mona Karoglanian and Naz Yessayan.

Father Simeon closed the meeting with a prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted.

Jay Bagdasarian 3/17/97
Jay Bagdasarian Date
Chairman of the Day

Anna Karayan 3/17/97
Anna Karayan Date
Secretary of the Day

The services of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday were conducted with the participation of our deacons, choir, altar servers and faithful.

After a one year hiatus, I conducted a Western Christmas Eve service of Vespers with carols on December 24.

I cannot express appreciation enough for the commitment of our deacons and choir, who travel long distances to keep the liturgical traditions alive. Special thanks to Deacon Serop Demirjian who faithfully conducted worship in my absence. Also, Anita Arpajian is to be commended for playing the organ and leading the choir simultaneously.

Sacraments

The Sacrament of **Holy Baptism** was administered to the following:

May 4 Tamar Arousiag Barsamian
May 11 Joseph Ara Israbian
May 17 Shant Torosian
June 1 Gregory Todd Russell
July 5 Araxi Demirjian
August 2 Biana Musaelyants
September 21 Scott Reese
November 30 Sergei, Laura, Narine, Dikran & Arshag Asriian

The Sacrament of **Holy Matrimony** was administered to the following:

October 19 Kimber Zadnik & Scott Reese

The Rite of **Christian Burial** was administered for:

January 7 Marie Bosnoian (Fr. Haik Donikian assisted)
February 4 Arsen Barsamian (Fr. Arshag Daghlian of the Cilician Prelacy assisted)
March 3 Vahak Manashian
April 5 Nevart Apalakian (Cemetery Service only)
August 26 Ann Britting
October 21 Ojin Chakamian
November 20 Azad Kapoudjian
December 27 Paul Asadorian

Day to Day Activities

Besides keeping daily office hours, I ministered to the sick and elderly. I visited and blessed the work places and the homes of parishioners. I held meetings for those preparing for baptism and marriage. Although I have specific office hours, I always encourage parishioners to call at anytime according to their needs.

Parish Life and Special Events

I have attended and presided over meetings and programs of the various organizations of our Church to the best of my ability and as my schedule allowed. I am especially thankful to the executive bodies of the various organizations for their successful programming throughout the year. The work of Louise Demirjian (spring) and Lisa Richardson (fall) and the church school staff is to be commended for their dedication and love for the Christian edification of our children.

On November 20, I received two high level employees of the Central Bank of Armenia, Edward Sandoyan and Babik Najarian, at our church complex.

I presided over a special parish meeting in review of the current financial situation on December 14.

Diocesan Events

I represented our Church at: the Annual Clergy Conference and 95th Diocesan Assembly hosted by our own parish - April 28 - May 4; the ACYOA Annual Assembly & Sports Weekend in Washington, DC - May 23 - 25; MidWest Regional Assembly (with Sebouh Setrakian) in Chicago, IL - October 4.

Mission Parishes

Under the direction of His Eminence the Primate, I conducted divine liturgies, baptisms, grave and home blessings for the mission communities of **Columbus** - April 5, July 18 & 19, September 20, October 25, November 22; and **Erie** - February 22, May 17, September 27, November 1, December 13. I am thankful to Anna Karayan for her assistance in establishing a church school in Columbus and to Sam & Sue Mirakian, who help with the Erie Mission's Choir, Armenian School and Youth Group.

Ecumenical Activities

I took part in an interfaith seminar and ecumenical service on January 21 at St. Joseph Christian Life Center.

I concelebrated Divine Liturgy at St. Mark Coptic Church on April 26 (Julian Calendar Easter).

I arranged for a meeting with Bishop Anthony Pilla, R.C. Bishop of Cleveland and Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Armenian Diocese, on April 30.

Dn. Michael Findikyan and I represented our church at the Celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland on August 17.

I continued to bring my active participation to the organizing group of the Eastern Christian Celebrations and Traditions Seminar. In 1997 we sponsored the annual seminar on Catholic, Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox relations at Notre Dame College - October 10 & 11. Among the guest lecturers was our diocesan chancellor, Fr. Garabed Kochakian. I enjoyed the honor of moderating the October 11 session.

Goris Church School Fund

This fund was instituted at my ordination on December 1, 1996. Half of monetary gifts received on the occasion of my ordination would be placed into a fund to assist the church school in Goris, Armenia, while the other half would defray costs incurred for the ordination festivities. In June, I personally administered \$3880 of the funds collected. Through generous gifts given during house blessings the balance in this fund has grown to the present balance of \$2423.31. Sometime during the summer of 1998 additional funds will be forwarded to Goris.

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Nineteen ninety seven was another exciting year for our Parish. We have hosted the 95th Annual Diocesan Assembly in Cleveland. This was a premier event for our Community and a big honor for our Parish. The delegation was led by His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America. The assembly was a great success. All the delegates were extremely pleased and impressed by the high quality organization, and warm hospitality. Moreover, this event brought to our Parish the much needed additional income. In fact, this was the highest income our Church has achieved from a single event in recent years.

In February, we had the privilege to host Dean Shahinian and Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian as moderators for a special program on "How can St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church meet the spiritual and cultural needs of our changing community?" In April, the entire Armenian Community of Cleveland came together to celebrate the 82nd Martyr's day commemoration. After a long winter, we enjoyed a very nice, good spirited picnic where over 300 Armenians enjoyed a day of great food, fun and fellowship. It was a big family reunion. Indeed, Arek and Sona Torossian and their committee did a superb job organizing it. In August, Mary Arslanian headed with all her enthusiasm the 13th annual rummage sale. It was the biggest success ever with over \$2,000 income. Thank you Mary. In October, the Ladies Auxiliary along with the Parish Council organized a very interesting cultural day with Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian, Chancellor of our Dioceses, who spoke on the artistic heritage of the Armenian Church. The Sunday School continues to be vibrant thanks to very dedicated superintendent: Lisa Richardson, dedicated teachers and enthusiastic children.

We continued the face-lifting of St. Gregory of Narek Church compound with the addition of a new roof for the Parish House and a partial new roof for the Parish Hall. Carpeting and parquet dance floor were added in the Parish Hall.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to "Hayr" Simeon for his spiritual leadership, his continuous and relentless work, encouragement and support. I would like to thank all members of the Parish Council and their families for their dedication to our Church. Indeed, the task of this elected body is very heavy. The Pastor and Parish Council are entrusted with the difficult mission in keeping a parish vibrant, viable and enriched with our religious and cultural traditions, as well as financially stable. I would like also to thank every parishioner who helped us during the year in different capacities. Without their presence and help, the Parish Council alone could not have accomplished all the tasks. I would like particularly to thank Cindy Russell for her outstanding and meticulous work by keeping our accounting in order and up-to-date. I would like to thank George Sakian for the tremendous effort in assuring the much needed income from the hall rental. I would like to thank Mona Karoghlanian for heading the difficult task of organizing the Diocesan Assembly. Also, I would like to thank Dick Arslanian for his continuous help and advice. Last, but certainly not least, I would like to recognize Serop Demirjian, Haig Arpajian, Anita Arpajian, Jeanette Arslanian, Archie Andonian,

1997 Parish Council Annual Report

Chairman :	Sebough Setrakian
Vice Chairman:	Ara Bagdasarian
Secretary:	Archie Andonian
Assistant Secretary:	Anita Arpajian
Treasurer:	Todd Russell
Assistant Treasurer:	Arek Torosian
Advisor:	Vladimir Arutyunov

The Parish Council had 14 regular business meetings and 1 special meeting in 1997. Some highlights from Parish Council sponsored or supported events are given below:

JANUARY	12	Feast of Nativity. Blessing of Water. Reception by AGBU
FEBRUARY	9	Poon Paregentan, luncheon by ACYOA Juniors
	15	Parish Council program with Fr. Garabed Kochakian and Dean Shahinian
	23	Annual Parish Assembly and luncheon
MARCH	2	Gomidas Concert by AGBU
	5	Michink Dinner and Women's Saints Commemoration by Diocesan Assembly Committee
	14 & 16	Beast on the Moon at Doboma Theater
	23	Palm Sunday Brunch by ACYOA Juniors Plate collection to benefit Red Cross for flood victims
	27	Holy Thursday Services of Foot Washing and Betrayal
	28	Good Friday Service on Burial
	30	Easter Sunday, fellowship by women from Baku & Yerevan
April	27	Martyrs' Day Commemoration jointly with Holy Cross Armenian Church
	28-30	Clergy Conference at St. Joseph Christian Life Center
May	1-4	95th Diocesan Assembly
	11	Parish Council Installation. Mother's Day reception and program by Sunday School and AGBU Armenian Language School
	23-25	ACYOA Sports Weekend in Washington, DC
JUNE	1	Church School Closing Day. Benefactors' Day

1997 DIOCESAN DELEGATE REPORT

Our parish had the great honor, and did an outstanding job of hosting the 95th Annual Diocesan Assembly from May 1-4, 1997. Delegates and guests stayed at Cleveland's two premiere hotels: The Ritz Carlton and The Renaissance. All diocesan plenary sessions and panel discussions were conducted at The Renaissance Hotel.

The Assembly was presided over by His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate. Dr. Garo Garibian of Cheltenham, PA and chaired the Assembly with Arthur Mardigian of Detroit serving as Vice-Chairman. St. Gregory of Narek was represented by Father Simeon Odabashian attending his first assembly as an ordained priest along with Dr. Sebough Setrakian (parish council chairman) and Ara Bagdasarian (delegate). There were 136 delegates in attendance.

The theme of the assembly as well as the year 1997 was Mission and Outreach. This theme was carried through to the various panel/discussion groups that were conducted throughout the second day of the Assembly. The panel meetings designed by each of the departments were designed to inform the delegates and encourage feedback to improve effectiveness in serving the parishes of our diocese. Panels were conducted by: 1. Dept. of Religious Education; 2. Dept. of Youth Ministry; 3. Christian Mission and Outreach; 4. Armenian Language Lab and Resource Center; and 5. Diocesan Finances, Budget and Administration.

The work of the mission department headed by Father Nerses Jebejian was highlighted throughout the weekend. There are now 18 mission parishes and communities. To further support this effort, the Cleveland delegate made a motion to allocate \$20,000 in the diocesan budget for mission programs in 1997 which was approved by the assembly.

This year's assembly marked an encouraging shift in demographics as many younger professionals assumed new roles as delegates and took their places among the veterans.

The Primate recognized, gave his blessing and congratulations to Father Simeon on his recent ordination into the priesthood. The Primate's message to the assembly focused on three upcoming milestones and we as a diocese must prepare to commemorate and use these events as opportunities for enrichment and renewal: The Centennial of the Diocese (1998), the anniversary of the birth of Christ (2000), and the 1700th anniversary of the conversion of Armenia to Christianity (2001). He presented the "Primate's Plan" as a model of preparation for the upcoming century, planning the focus and goals for the next four years: Faith in 1998, focusing on Christ and the Holy Gospel, Hope in 1999, focusing on the Holy Spirit, worship and sacraments; Love in 2000, with a focus on God the Father, charity and service; and Baptism in 2001, stressing Christ, Etchmiadzin and a renewed church.

The following individuals were elected to the Diocesan Council: Father Aved Terzian, Father Dajad Davidian, John Amboian, Oscar Tatosian, George Papelian, and George Chakoian.

After receiving the Diocesan Unity Report, the Assembly was courageously presented with a dissenting Minority Report by Father Dajad Davidian. The assembly supported the Minority Report and voted to move the Unity process along by holding three regional seminar/meetings where delegates from both the Diocese and the Prelacy would review the proposed bylaws for a unified church.

95th Diocesan Assembly

The 95th Diocesan Assembly and Annual Clergy Conference was hosted by St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church April 28 through May 4, 1997 in Cleveland, Ohio. The weeklong assemblage by all accounts was heralded an overwhelming success on all accounts by the 200 clergy, Diocesan Delegates, Women's Guild Delegates and guests.

The sub-committee members planned and executed the following activities and responsibilities: A detailed report can be found in the January 1998 issue of the PAROS.

- Clergy Conference (including hosting a dinner & breakfast at the Cultural Hall and Badarak)
- Setting up the meetings for the Diocesan Assembly (including Diocesan special requests, meeting space, portfolios and meeting materials, refreshments, lunches, Women's Guild sessions, etc.)
- Registration (including hospitality packages and gifts for the delegates)
- Thursday Rock-A-Hye Nite (dinner/dance)
- Friday & Saturday Delegates Lunches
- Friday Puttin' On The Ritz Dinner
- Friday Viennese Reception
- VIP Reception
- Saturday Gala Banquet & Dance (including program honoring Dr. Kenneth Zahka friend of the Armenian Award recipient and Mr. Asbed Zakarian, the Armenian of the Year Recipient)
- Friday & Saturday Non-Delegate activities
- Parish Council Chairmen's Breakfast
- Yeretgin's Breakfast
- Badarak
- Farewell Brunch
- Transportation
- Booklet
- Public Relations
- Arrangements and coordination with hotels

It took a committee of over 25 committed individuals to see this Assembly to fruition. Each committee member enlisted the help of many other volunteers. The dollars and cents alone cannot measure the success. Yes, our profit was over \$10,000; however, the prestige and pride we brought to St. Gregory of Narek would be a tribute to the fathers of this church, that their efforts were not in vain.

To those who supported and helped, we are eternally grateful.

Respectfully submitted,



Mona Karoghlanian
Chairman
95th Diocesan Assembly

St. Gregory of Narek Church School
Report of Activities for 1997 Calendar Year

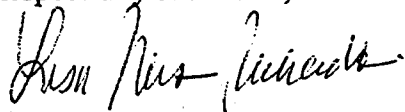
The St. Gregory Church School is very fortunate to have for both the 1996-97 and the 1997-98 school years some very dynamic and dedicated teachers. Leslie Bagdasarian, with the help of Ara Bagdasarian and Nisa Torosian have helped watch the Nursery class, as well as clean up the class room and arrange for new toys for the children. Louise Demirjian and Beth Davidian have been busy with all sorts of crafts as they teach the Kindergarten Level class. Nina Setrakian and Cheryl Arslanian are our Elementary level class teachers, and Steve Davidian has been teaching the Junior Level class. We are also grateful for the spiritual guidance, lessons and time that Hayr Soorp gives to our students, especially during his special Sunday sermons that our children enjoy.

Most Sundays the church school has begun with a short assembly for all students, in which the children have been taught new songs, new prayers, and bible readings. In addition, we have been passing a plate for offering to encourage our students to begin a routine of giving. Usually there is a discussion about a current holiday we are celebrating. The children spend the majority of the remaining school time in the individual classes, and also are able to attend church together, as well as take communion together. Thanks to our supportive parents, we have also continued a wonderful tradition of celebrating our student's birthdays by hosting the coffee hour once a month.

In addition to our regular activities, we prepared for many of the church holidays with special events. The Lenten season began with a Poon Paregentan party, followed by lessons about Lent and Easter, our most sacred holiday. We began our Christmas celebration with advent calendars, the lighting of the advent wreath and a tree-trimming party in which the students made beautiful tree decorations and hung them on the Church's Christmas tree in the hall. Santa Claus (thanks to Krikor Ohanian) visited our students in December and gave the children special gifts of Christmas videos – thanks to a generous donation by a client of the WorldWide Express. The Church School also had two field trips, one to visit a nursing home, and one to assist with the meal preparation for the homeless at St. Herman's Monastery.

The Church School is also always striving to make our classrooms both more cozy and functional. This year we were very grateful and fortunate to have the help of the ACYOA Juniors help us in September by painting the Kindergarten classroom a cheerful blue! With the supervision of Alice Patena, Alice Yessayan, and Lisa Richardson, the ACYOA had fun completing this very large task and enjoying some pizza together. The Church School purchased two new tables for the Nursery and the Kindergarten classroom, as well as a new bulletin board to post announcements and a calendar of events. We are especially enjoying the new area rugs in the Elementary/AGBU classroom, and are looking to either purchase, or hopefully receive a donated area rug for the Kindergarten and Junior level classrooms. Also, we are always seeking the donation of any educational or recreational items for the school, including used but safe toys and/or furniture.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Nersesian Richardson

**ST. GREGORY OF NAREK SOCIAL CLUB
ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR 1997**

January	General Business Meeting & Pasta Dinner at Parish House
February	Chagrin Valley Little Theatre followed by refreshments at Coffee Creations
March	Social Club encouraged its members to support the production of "Beast On The Moon" presented at Dobama Theatre
April	Talk on Computing and the Internet followed by General Meeting and refreshments at Parish House
May	Pot Luck Dinner and General Meeting
June	Executive Committee began plans for Golf Outing Akron Aeros Baseball Game and dinner at Spaghetti Warehouse in Akron
July	No activity
August	Golf Outing and Picnic at Grantwood Golf Course in Solon, Ohio for members and guests – membership drive
September	Great Lakes Science Center/Omnimax Theatre and dinner at Hornblowers Bar & Grill Coffee Hour following church services
October	Cuyahoga Valley Train Ride followed by lunch
November	Blood Drive at Cultural Hall Dinner meeting at Gaylin's Restaurant and elections of officers
December	Christmas Lights and Wagon Ride followed by candlelight dinner at Lake Farm Parks

The Social Club in 1997 enjoyed good fellowship and continued, in a limited manner to serve the church. As since our inception, increasing our membership is always a top priority. We welcome all persons who wish to join together under the banner of St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church Social Club. For the past year our membership was 45.

1997 Executive Committee

President	Very Rev. Fr. Simeon Odabashian	
Chairman	Robert Bagdasarian	<i>Robert Bagdasarian</i>
Vice Chairman	Eileen Hacherian	<i>Eileen Hacherian</i>
Recording Secretary	Mona Karoghlanian	<i>Mona Karoghlanian</i>
Corresponding Secretary	Florence Straka	<i>Florence Straka</i>
Treasurer	Russell Arslanian	<i>Russell Arslanian</i>

Plans for 1998

- Active Membership Campaign
- 2nd Annual Golf Outing on August 1, 1998
- Coffee Hour for community following church service on September 13, 1998



ՍԲ. ԳՐԻԳՈՐ ՆԱՐԵԿԱՅԻ ՀԱՅՑ. ԱՌԱՔԵԼԱԿԱՆ ԵԿԵՂԵՑԻ
St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Apostolic Church



VERIFICATION OF AUDIT

February 1998

We, the undersigned and elected 1997 auditors of St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church, verify that the 1997 financial statements of the following organizations have been examined and audited:

PARISH COUNCIL

ACYOA JUNIORS

ACYOA SENIORS

CHOIR

CHURCH SCHOOL

LADIES AUXILIARY

WOMEN'S GUILD

SOCIAL CLUB

Richard Arsenian 2-4-98
name date

M. Muzar 2-4-98
name date

Mr/Ms: Karach 2-4-98
name date

ST. GREGORY OF NAREK ARMENIAN CHURCH
PARISH COUNCIL
TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1997

<u>Expenditures</u>	1996	1997	1997	1998
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
1997 Diocesan Convention	5,000	0	0	0
Auto & Property Insurance	2,987	3,000	3,034	3,200
Automobile Expense	6,855	700	517	3,500
Bank Service Charges	153	400	216	200
Candles	492	500	876	1,000
Capital Improvements	0	7,000	3,826	2,000
Church Expense	452	1,000	0	0
Church School	0	500	0	0
Clergy Benefits	3,701	4,000	2,486	2,500
Clergy Travel/Expenses	0	1,000	891	1,000
Cultural Day	0	0	384	0
Diocesan Dues	10,587	11,000	7,976	9,000
Donations	554	200	100	100
Flowers, Altar/Funeral	402	400	378	300
General Assembly Expense	727	700	0	0
General Maintenance Labor	265	14,000	5,688	5,000
General Maintenance Supplies	0	0	4,705	4,000
Hall Furnishings	0	400	3,291	500
Hall Repairs	1,901	2,000	1,671	1,000
House Repairs	-	0	296	300
Hye Camp Expense	0	500	629	500
Landscaping & Snow Removal	3,123	3,500	3,342	3,500
Louma Assessment, Etchmiadzin	294	300	279	300
Maintenance Cleaning (Hall)	9,740	11,000	5,667	6,000
Maintenance Cleaning (House & Church)	-	-	3,110	3,200
Maintenance Contracts	803	1,000	301	0
Martyrs Day Expense	-	-	129	0
Miscellaneous	618	500	453	500
Office Expenses	642	3,000	2,617	700
Ordination Expense	14,044	0	830	0
Organist	1,175	1,300	1,125	1,500
Organization expense & travel	256	1,000	0	0
Parking lot Maintenance	2,000	0	0	2,000
Paros	2,953	3,200	5,206	4,000
Pest Control	363	400	330	200
Postage and delivery	1,140	1,300	1,294	1,300
Pastor's Stipend	14,676	26,000	22,453	26,600
Payroll Taxes	7,417	2,000	8,656	5,000
Roof expense	0	0	14,310	9,000
Septic Tank - Grease Trap	729	500	155	200
Sewer Tie	48,465	0	0	0
Special events	0	500	976	200
Supplies - Hall	488	500	674	750
Trash Removal	1,669	1,800	1,652	1,600
Utilities (see next Page for detail)	11,938	16,000	13,853	14,000
Visiting Clergy	2,558	0	817	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 159,166	\$ 121,800	\$ 125,191	\$ 114,650
Capital Improvements from memorial fund	\$ 10,719		\$ 360	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES - ALL ACCOUNTS	\$ 169,885		\$ 125,551	

St. Gregory of Narek
1997 Diocesan Assembly

Income:

Seed Moneys	5,000.00
Kickoff #1	516.50
Kickoff #2	340.00
Kickoff #3	469.25
Booklet Donations	16,250.00
Ticket Sales	41,705.95
Event Sponsors	7,300.00
Other Cash Donations	344.00
Clergy Conference Packages	3,450.00
Total Income:	75,375.70

Expense:

Seed Moneys	(5,000.00)
Kickoff #1	(383.82)
Kickoff #2	(144.96)
Kickoff #3	(257.24)
Tuesday - Clergy Dinner	(493.05)
Thursday - Dinner	(5,231.43)
Friday - Lunch	(1,651.04)
Friday - Dinner	(6,248.46)
Friday - Reception	(1,007.20)
Saturday - Lunch	(1,116.44)
Saturday - VIP Reception	(2,249.52)
Saturday - Dinner	(15,591.54)
Sunday - Brunch	(1,405.79)
P.C. Chairmen's Breakfast	(358.43)
Clergy Conference	(5,150.00)
Yeretzkin Breakfast	(141.60)
Hospitality Packages	(188.97)
Assembly Expenses:	
Refreshments (at meetings)	(4,112.40)
Room Rental	(3,800.00)
Delegate Gifts - Clocks	(1,367.25)
AV Equipment	(1,468.00)
Plastic Folders	(728.95)
Copies	(425.99)
Computer / Typewriter Rental	(415.00)
Name Tags - Badges	(349.75)
Misc.	(155.43)
Total	(12,822.77)
Nondelegate Activities	(386.04)
Transportation	(1,350.00)
Photography	(302.50)
PR	(360.00)
Postage	(1,052.67)
Booklet - Printing	(986.00)
Supplies / Other	(1,431.76)
Total Expense:	(65,311.23)

Net Income: 10,064.47

Robert Bagdasarian, Treasurer



Papken Maksoudian, Assistant Treasurer



ST. GREGORY OF NAREK ARMENIAN CHURCH
ACYOA SENIORS 1997 TREASURER'S REPORT

December 31, 1996 Ending Balance \$584.70

INCOME:

None 0.00 \$0.00

EXPENSES:

1996 Balance Assesment 50.82
1997 Diocesan Assembly Book Donation 100.00
1997 ACYOA Sports Weekend Sponsor 50.00
1997 ACYOA Sports Weekend Volleyball Fe 100.00*
\$300.82

Balance per Bank on December 31, 1997 \$283.88

Respectfully Submitted,



Cindy Russell, Treasurer

* CK#170 Dated 7/29/97 HAS NOT CLEARED AND THUS THE
BANK STATEMENT REFLECTS A BALANE OF \$383.88
AS OF 12/31/97. (MD)

Audited & Approved
1/28/98 M. [Signature]
1/28/98 Susan [Signature]
1/28/98 Richard Amalman

ST. GREGORY OF NAREK CHURCH SCHOOL
1997 Treasurer's Report

Balance as of December 31, 1996 \$ 626.33

Receipts:

Gifts	\$ 300.00	
Registration Fees	<u>\$ 150.00</u>	
		\$ 450.00
		<u>\$ 1076.33</u>

Disbursements:

Supplies	\$ 262.07	
Books/Curriculum	\$ 112.00	
Commencement/Teacher Gifts	\$ 75.44	
St. Gregory of Narek Church (% over \$500 from last year)	\$ 75.79	
(2) New Tables for Classrooms	<u>\$ 337.96</u>	
		<u>\$ 863.26</u>

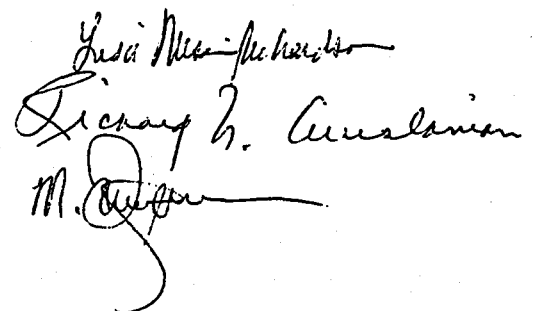
Balance as of December 31, 1997 \$ 213.07

Respectfully submitted,



Leslie Bagdasarian
Treasurer

Audited and Approved 1/26/98



Lisa M. [unclear]
Gregory H. Arslanian
M. [unclear]

ST. GREGORY OF NAREK SOCIAL CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT - 1997

STARTING BALANCE - JANUARY 1, 1997.....\$1,067.10

INCOME:

Dues.....	\$ 420.00
Food Sales.....	25.91
Socials.....	<u>936.25</u>
Total Income	\$1,382.16

DISBURSEMENTS:

Socials.....	\$1,197.54
Flyers, Stamps, Cards..	173.18
Church Dues.....	340.26
Diocesan Donation.....	<u>100.00</u>
Total Disbursements....	\$1,810.98

BALANCE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1997.....\$ 638.28

Russ Arslanian
Treasurer
January 9, 1998

Checked & approved 1/18/98
Russ Arslanian
Inspector Richardson
M. [Signature]

ST. GREGORY OF NAREK 1997 DUES PAID MEMBERS

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Mr. Robert Abdalian | 49 Mrs. Sonia Elloian |
| 2 Mrs. Anahid Aghajanian | 50 Mr. Tom Elloian |
| 3 Mrs. Alice Ahlegian | 51 Mrs. Carol Ghazarian |
| 4 Dr. Archie Andonian | 52 Dr. Krikor Ghazarian |
| 5 Mrs. Silva Andonian | 53 Mrs. Nouritza Ghazarian |
| 6 Mrs. Anita Arpajian | 54 Mr. Jim Gideon |
| 7 Mr. Haig Arpajian | 55 Mrs. Florence Goekjian |
| 8 Mr. Armen Arslanian | 56 Ms. Alice Hacherian |
| 9 Mrs. Carol Arslanian | 57 Mrs. Eileen Hacherian |
| 10 Mrs. Cheryl Arslanian | 58 Mr. Jack Hacherian |
| 11 Mrs. Grace Arslanian | 59 Mr. Jack Hatchadorian |
| 12 Mr. Henry Arslanian | 60 Mrs. Mae Hatchadorian |
| 13 Mrs. Jeannie Arslanian | 61 Mr. Matthew Hatchadorian |
| 14 Mrs. Kathie Arslanian | 62 Dr. Ara Kallibjian |
| 15 Mr. Kevork Arslanian | 63 Dr. Mila Kallibjian |
| 16 Mrs. Mary Arslanian | 64 Mr. Harry Kananian |
| 17 Mr. Nat Arslanian | 65 Dr. Helen Kanian |
| 18 Mr. Paul Arslanian | 66 Dr. Vahag Kanian |
| 19 Mr. Russell Arslanian | 67 Mrs. Jennie Kapoudjian |
| 20 Mrs. Sharon Arslanian | 68 Mrs. Anna Karayan |
| 21 Mr. Ted Arslanian | 69 Ms. Mona Karoghlanian |
| 22 Mrs. Vergin Arslanian | 70 Mrs. Jill Maksoudian |
| 23 Mr. Vladimir Arutyunov | 71 Mr. Papken Maksoudian |
| 24 Miss Dina Aurslanian | 72 Mrs. Lucine Mirakian |
| 25 Mr. Harry Aurslanian | 73 Mr. Sam Mirakian |
| 26 Mrs. Jeanette Aurslanian | 74 Mrs. Sue Mirakian |
| 27 Miss Lisa Aurslanian | 75 Mrs. Cartha Ohanessian |
| 28 Mr. Meshac Aurslanian | 76 Dr. Simon Ohanessian |
| 29 Mr. Richard Aurslanian | 77 Mr. Eric Ohanian |
| 30 Mrs. Sandra Aurslanian | 78 Mrs. Kimberly Reese |
| 31 Mr. Alex Bagdasarian | 79 Mrs. Lisa Richardson |
| 32 Mrs. Alice Bagdasarian | 80 Mrs. Cindy Russell |
| 33 Mr. Ara Bagdasarian | 81 Dr. Todd Russell |
| 34 Mr. Jay Bagdasarian | 82 Dr. Edgar Ryan |
| 35 Mrs. Leslie Bagdasarian | 83 Mrs. Wanda Ryan |
| 36 Mr. Robert Bagdasarian | 84 Mr. George Sakian |
| 37 Mrs. Thelma Bagdasarian | 85 Mrs. Jean Sakian |
| 38 Mrs. Osky Balderian | 86 Mr. Sam Sarkisian |
| 39 Mrs. Helen Baltayan | 87 Mrs. Nina Setrakian |
| 40 Mr. John Borazanian | 88 Dr. Sebouh Setrakian |
| 41 Mrs. Zevart Borazanian | 89 Mr. Arek Torosian |
| 42 Mr. Amerino Calandra | 90 Mrs. Sona Torosian |
| 43 Mrs. Ojin Chakemian* | 91 Mrs. Debra Venditti |
| 44 Mr. Ralph Chakerian | 92 Mrs. Mary Vosgerichian |
| 45 Mr. Steve Davidian | 93 Mr. Andon Yeranossian |
| 46 Mrs. Louise Demirjian | 94 Mr. Naz Yessayan |
| 47 Mr. Murad Demirjian | 95 Mrs. Janet Yoel |
| 48 Dn. Serop Demirjian | 96 Mrs. Elizabeth Zadnik |

* Deceased