

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Mid-Year Parish Assembly Meeting - October 25, 1998

Reverend Deacon Aren Jebejian and members of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church of Chicago,

As we approach the end of the year, we find ourselves in the midst of an active and vigorous Church schedule.

The year began with great hope and promise with the assignment of Reverend Deacon Aren Jebejian as the Deacon-in-Charge of our parish. On Sunday, January 4, 1998, His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian made his first pastoral visit to St. Gregory's to celebrate the New Year's Divine Liturgy and preside over the installation of our new spiritual leader, Deacon Aren.

With the guidance and direction of Deacon Aren, we have journeyed through the year together. We have observed and celebrated the major Feast Days of the Armenian Church. During the Lenten period, Lenten fish dinners were sponsored on Friday evenings, followed by guest speakers and evening vigil services. On Sundays, we were instructed on the Divine Liturgy by Deacon Aren.

All of the Chicago area Armenian Churches commemorated the 83rd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide together on Friday, April 24th, at All Saints Armenian Church with an evening vigil service which was very well attended by the Armenian community of Chicago.

On Sunday, April 26th, about 30 of our faithful parishioners travelled to Holy Resurrection Armenian Church of South Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to commemorate Martyr's Day services together with our sister parish and share in the madagh dinner they prepared in memory of the Armenian martyrs of 1915.

The annual Diocesan Assembly was held in New York City in May, 1998, and we were very well represented this year with Deacon Aren, the Diocesan delegate and myself in attendance.

Our 24th annual Armenian Fest was held on August 8 and 9, 1998, and was our most successful ever! We wish to sincerely thank all for their tireless efforts and support which made this year such a great success!

An Ecumenical prayer service was held on Saturday, October 3, 1998, at St. Nicholas Albanian Church in conjunction with the Centennial celebration of our Diocese in the Midwest.

This was a very busy time for us, because we celebrated the 34th Anniversary of the Consecration of our Church the next day, on Sunday, October 4th. We were honored to again welcome His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian to celebrate the Divine Liturgy, and also preside over the ordination of John Paklaian to the Sub-Diaconate. At the banquet which followed, the presentation of the first annual "St. Gregory Steward of the Year" award was presented to Violet Koresian.

We are happy to report that all our electrical work has been completed and upgraded by increasing the existing 200 amp service to 400 amp. This will ensure that our needs for the future are met and there will be no problems with the electrical power available, especially during the summer months.

As you may be aware, there has been some remodelling done in the kitchen. The beautiful new counter top and cabinets have just been installed by several members of our community who have volunteered their expertise and skills.

The Parish Council, after much discussion and consideration, decided to suspend the rental of the Cultural Hall. We are currently pursuing and exploring different, alternative ideas to the hall rentals.

Sunday School registration and classes have begun on September 13th and seem to be off to a great start. Deacon Aren has also begun Bible Study classes which are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. Youth activities are also being organized by Deacon Aren.

There are many events and activities which will take place over the next few months. A Centennial Art Exhibit will take place from November 5-22, 1998, at the Fourth Presbyterian Church in downtown Chicago.

Plans are under way for the annual Christmas Party. More details will be available soon.

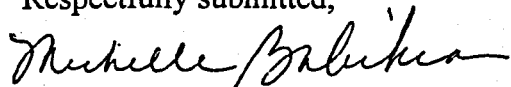
We will also be planning a Spring Dance and would welcome any volunteers who would like to offer their support.

The Parish Council wishes to extend its heartfelt thanks to Deacon Aren, all the visiting clergy, deacons, choir members, Diocesan delegate, all the members of the various Church organizations, committees, Sunday School teachers, Loosavorich staff, our Church secretary, all the volunteers who served on the various committees and faithful parishioners for their service to the Church.

I would again like to thank Deacon Aren, the members of the Parish Council and all others who have contributed to the parish in 1998.

On behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to thank the Church organizations, committees and faithful members who have worked diligently throughout the years to keep our Church and community strong and healthy.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Babikian". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "M".

Michelle Babikian