

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
ST. GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR ARMENIAN CHURCH
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Father Sarkis, Parish Council Members, members of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church, the Annual Report of the Parish Council is always a difficult document to compose, for so many of the activities of the past year are an integral part of the reports of the subsidiary organizations of the church.

A total of 27 regular meetings were held between January 1, 1966, and December 31st, 1966. At the first regular meeting the following officers were elected:

Chairman	Mr. Martin H. Cholakian
Secretary	Mr. Arnold Koresian
Treasurer	Mr. Peter Klujian
Asst. Treasurer	Mr. George Nahabedian

In addition to the above regular meetings, 3 special meetings were held during the year. One with the former Primate, Archbishop Sion, one with the present Primate, Bishop Torkom, and one with the Executive Secretary of the Cathedral Fund, Father Levon Arakelian. These meetings were held to try to solve some of the local problems of our Parish and also to start the campaign drive for funds for the Cathedral.

Activities were like those of previous years:

1. The picnic was sponsored and run by the Parish Council and in addition, all members played an active part in the Ladies Auxiliary Annual Picnic.

2. The Parish Council assisted the Building Committee in the Consecration Anniversary weekend plans. Much time and energy was devoted by both groups which assured the weekend would be a success.
3. The farewell dinner for Father Vahrij was sponsored by the Parish Council. In this endeavor both the Ladies Auxilliary and the Young Ladies Auxilliary outdid themselves in their service to the church.

The main problem that faced the Parish Council during the past year was to find a replacement for Father Vahrij. After much correspondence, many phone calls, some very anxious moments and with the help of the then, Primate-elect, Bishop Torkom, Father Sarkis Kashikjian was appointed our temporary pastor. In our sincere and honest opinion, we feel we now have serving our Parish one of the finest clergymen in the Armenian Church. We say that without reservation. Through some very depressing times, when he was living away from his family he showed us the intense devotion and determination that he serves his God and his Church with. We should feel fortunate he is with us, for he is a constant source of inspiration and guidance. It is our recommendation and feeling that Father Sarkis should be given an overwhelming vote of confidence at this meeting by stripping him of his title "temporary pastor" and electing him to a full five year term as our Priest.

We have tried to serve our church as best we could. At times we were lax and at times we were overzealous in our endeavors. It is

imperative that all of you understand each of the members of the Council, although elected to office, are volunteers to a very responsible position. Most of us, being young, are very prone to mistakes. Do not condemn or criticize for that but rather be patient and bear with us while we learn. Remember my eight colleagues served the church where there was no one else who wanted the job.

My personal thanks to Mrs. Pepron Paloian, Chairlady of the Ladies Auxilliary and Mrs. Rose Tootooian, Chairlady of the Young Ladies Auxilliary. They never failed once to responde to any of my requests for help.

My thanks to our Diocesan Delegates, Haig Pedian and Kazar Kazarian. The wealth of knowledge and their immense capacity for work was always placed at my fingertips and for that I thank them.

To Der Sarkis, my fervent hope for continued good health and success in his chosen work.

And last, my very special thanks to the eight men who served in the Parish Council. Each man in his own way served well, worked diligently and persevered with my inexperience as Chairman. For their patience and understanding, I remain eternally grateful.

My thanks to you all.

Martin H. Cholakian
Chairman - Parish Council