

Parish Council Chairman's
Annual report

I am happy to report to you that we had a very good year. During the past 12 months many events took place. Details are listed in the Parish Council report.

After almost half a century of keeping this parish alive, without the presence of a permanent pastor, this year we were fortunate enough, not only in having our own priest, but also seeing him ordained to the priesthood in a solemn & colorful ceremony. With the reception-dinner that the Parish Council gave following the ordination, to honor the newly ordained priest, the climax of our activities was not only reached, but it was sustained during the following months until it was culminated in the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Diocese & the 50th anniversary of the Parish Council & the proclamation that was obtained from the mayor of Binghamton on this occasion & the honoring of the elderly of this community with whose diligent work this parish was not only established, 50 years ago, but was sustained in the years that followed & also flourished. After the initial establishment of this parish, 1973 will go down in history as one of the most important years in the life of this community.

At this point I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow members on the parish Council who worked hard during the year in order to produce the results you saw. Parish Council meetings were held regularly & on special occasions. I am proud to say that in all these meetings either all 7 members were present or at least 6 out of 7, including the times when 3 meetings were held in one week. Thank you fellows.

In the beginning of the year we appointed several committees to do different jobs. In the organization of these committees we strived to distribute the load of work on practically ~~on~~ every member of the parish. Fortunately most committees worked well. They accomplished what they were supposed to do. Special thanks to the building & maintenance committee under the chairmanship of Mr. John Bogdasarian, which not only did what was routine work, but also had a new roof put on the building & made an inventory of the furniture & fixtures & belongings of the church upon our request. Mr. Edward Seradarian is to be commended for this tedious job that he did in an excellent manner.

I would also like to thank the Dance Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Harry Mahakian, for the splendid work they did.

Last year you requested that we appoint a committee to study the Armen-

ian school problem . We did this. However, the committee could not materialize the excellent proposals that it came up with. It is necessary that one person be in charge of organizing the Armenian school , not necessarily teaching in it. The only person that I can recommend for this purpose is Der Kevork.

The womens' Guild , under the chairmanship of Mrs. Alice Bogdasarian, is to be congratulated for the excellent work they did during the past year & for the unlimited help they have given the parish Council on different occasions. We thank them sincerely for all that.

We would also like to thank all the families who put on the dinners every month & especially those who donated the food for some of the dinners. These dinners are an excellent way of getting us together & keeping our ties with our church & traditions.

The youth group has been very active . It has done an excellent job under the direction of Mrs. Marion Rejebian. She & her co-workers are to be thanked for the splendid work they have done.

The work of other church affiliated organizations has already been mentioned in other reports. *We thank them all.*

Another important achievement this year was the collection of the archives of the church in Binghamton from different individuals who were in office during the past 50 years or so. The task remains to sort out these papers & organize them. Volanteers will be appreciated for this important work.

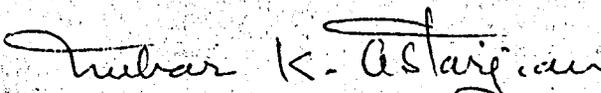
As you will see from the treasurer's REPORT , our expenses have skyrocketed. During the past year we were able to cover these expenses because of the income realized from the dance & the booklet associated with it. However, it could not be expected that every year the same will happen. In order to put the finances of this parish on sound economic principles , it is necessary that each one pledge a certain amount for every year & pay it as soon as possible. Altho during the past year pledges were collected , they are not adequate for the future . This system could only work with your cooperation & punctuality . Therefore, I urge every one of you , including those who are not present, to sign up for the yearly pledge system & pay the pledged amounts as soon as possible. This will be the backbone of this parish. Without it we cannot afford to continue our work as we have done during the past year. Otherwise we will have to give up some of the things we have been doing in this parish.

The brunt of work has localized on certain individuals in this parish. We all have to chip in & work for this parish to keep it going so that those bogged down with most of the work will not get tiered & quit. Please help & do your share of the work so that this parish will keep going forwards & not stall or retreat.

There are many individuals who need to get special thanks from us .Those persons are known to you . They have done a great job in making this church flourish. I would like to thank you all collectively & say " well done ladies & gentlemen". I would also like to point out that for exceptional services to this parish Dr. Robert Bogdasarian & Prof. Hrair Dekmedjian were honored by the Parish Council in a special seremony *during the past year.*

As to our plans for the coming year & the years ahead , they are listed in skeleton form in the parish Council report. I don't want to dwell on these points at the present time. However, if you would like to see these achieved, then I would urge you to take a share of the burden of the work. Only in this manner we can keep our church going & we can make it flourish & be proud of it infront of the future generation. We have a lot of work to do . So, let us join hands & do it together & be proud of it.

God bless you all.


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