

1981 Parish Assembly Chairman's Report

This past year has been a challenging one for our Church. Der Kevork Arakelian, our former Pastor of eight years, resigned his position in January 1980 in order to assume the Pastorship of a Church in California. Prior to his official resignation date of 31 January, a Priest Search Committee was formed which aggressively pursued the procurement of a replacement for Der Kevork. Since we were not able to receive any definite commitment from the Diocese, numerous letters were written to parishes throughout the Diocese. Our efforts were successful and on 18 May, Father Sooren Chinchinian celebrated his first Badarak as Pastor of our Church.

In the area of capital improvements, the storm windows which were graciously donated by the Women's Guild were installed in the Church and an automobile was purchased since the old one was beyond repair. Insulation of the Church ceiling and some of the other projects which commenced in 1979 were completed. An apartment was procured for Hayr Sooren and furnished with the help of Carol Bogdasarian and Marion Rejebian.

The Pledge Dinner on 9 May at the Vestal Steak House was highly successful through the efforts of the Pledge Committee and the Parish Council. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Harry and Jackie Kradjian who have contributed this dinner annually since its inception. Also, of course, I would like to express the gratitude of the Parish Council for all of you who generously pledge your support each year.

Hayr Sooren, your delegate Mike Ketchoyian, and myself, attended the Diocesan Assembly in Washington, D. C. (May 27-31). We strongly supported a measure which would have decreased our Diocesan assessment by \$1,085.00 annually but were soundly defeated by the larger parishes.

Our Annual Dance on 14 June under the chairmanship of Ralph Hatounian was very successful and the dinner - dance concept seems to be a good approach.

The Church Picnic on 27 July was well attended and an extemporaneous professional photograph of the group taken at the picnic was well received by the Parishioners.

During the summer we also received a surprise visit from the Archbishop who simply came to our Church one Sunday and attended Service and took Communion from Hayr Sooren. The Bishop was pleased with the findings of his "surprise visit".

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Women's Guild under the chairmanship of Margaret Medzigian for undertaking several of the Church Dinners throughout the year. This is an area where support has diminished by the various families who in the past undertook these dinners. I should point out that this was in the past an important source of revenue to the Church which was negligible this past year. I hope that the Guild will revitalize the monthly dinners which would entail one family giving one dinner once a year. If this support for the family dinners does not materialize, an added burden will be placed on the Parishioners through the pledge system. I would also like to thank the Guild for their monetary support which they have given unselfishly in the past.

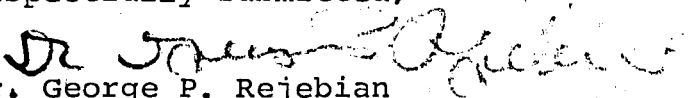
When I undertook the Chairmanship of the Parish Council I felt that there was a need for better mutual understanding and cohesiveness with the different organizations. As a result, key organization people have been invited to Parish Council Meetings throughout the year in order to resolve mutual problems. In my estimation this approach has been quite helpful and hopefully will be continued.

The final item which I would like to discuss is the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Consecration of our Church which will be held on 13 June 1981 as a dinner - dance banquet in conjunction with our Annual Dance. We have held several special meetings and hope that the entire Parish will give us their support for this very special occasion. We plan to have a speaker of a very high calibre and hope to get maximum participation. This occasion will be dedicated to our parents and predecessors who had the wisdom and foresight to purchase and establish an Armenian Church fifty years ago and to the countless people who have worked and sacrificed throughout the years.

Finally, I ask that all of you will give your support to the Parish Council and Church organizations and to Hayr Sooren who is relatively a newcomer in our community. I would like to thank the members of the Parish Council for their work and sacrifice during the year and the various organizations who have been most receptive to any requests I have made of them.

The past year has been a good one and with the help of God the coming year will be an even better one.

Respectfully submitted,


Dr. George P. Rejebian