

ST. GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR
PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING

- I. The Parish Assembly meeting was called to order by Dr. George Rejebian on Sunday February 1, 1981 at 1:30 PM.
- II. Father Sooren Chinchinian gave the opening prayer
- III. Mr. Michael Ketchoyian then announced Roll of all paid members for the year of 1980.
- IV. Dr. Vahe Garabedian and Jack Injajigian were nominated by Professor Hrair Dekmejian and Mr. Nishan Ketchoyian and elected unanimously as Chairman and Secretary Pro-Tem respectively.
- V. Minutes of the 1980 Parish Assembly were then read by Mr. Jack Injajigian and accepted as read.
- VI. Pastor's Report - Hayr Soorb Chinchinian presented his report, the highlights of which are as follows:
 - A. HS (Hayr Soorb) arrived in Binghamton, May 15th, 1980 and expressed warmest gratitude to Mrs. Carol Bogdasarian, Mrs. Marion Rejebian and Parish Council for a smooth transition period.
 - B. HS began visiting families (initially those who were not attending church regularly) and then to families sympathetic to St. Gregory's.
 - C. HS also visited the elderly and in turn received their blessings.
 - D. He was responsible for the formation of a Sunrise Newsletter (more formal than before) and for doing the majority of the work with the aid of Mrs. Grace Baradet and Mrs. Adrienne Kachadourian. Many parishoners were pleased with some criticism regarding the late arrival of the newsletter.
 - E. HS was responsible for the establishment of weekly Armenian language classes with the purpose of giving our youth an opportunity to join. Only 15 people enrolled in the program with late enrollment being a problem. He also informed the assembly that Mr. Michael Findikyan will soon be in a position to teach Armenian Classes next year. The success of this program as well as any other depends solely on the willingness of each individual.
 - F. HS reported that the attendance of Sunday school had increased.
 - G. HS attempted to organize cultural gatherings revolving around major feast days. This was considered to be a strong force.
 - H. The church choir had a solid membership with HS recruiting 2 new members.
 - I. HS was deeply indebted to Professor Hrair Dekmejian who conducted church services while he was away.
 - J. St. Gregory's continued to enjoy a positive relationship with the South Side Sister churches with St. Gregory's being represented at Thanksgiving and epiphany services.
 - K. HS Urged all women to take part in the Women's Guild
 - L. HS commented on youth group - the future of Parish hinges on them. It is necessary to assign this group an adult advisor to supervise activities.
- VII. Chairman's Report - Dr. Rejebian informed the Parish Assembly of the following;
 - A. Father George Arakelian resigned his position in January of 80 with a priest search committee being immediately formed.
 - B. On May 18, 1980 Father Sooren Chinchinian celebrated first Badarak at St. Gregory's Armenain Church. Binghamton.
 - C. Storm Windows donated by Women's Guild were placed up.
 - D. An apartment for Hayr Soorb was secured
 - E. The May Pledge dinner was very successful with Special thanks given to Harry and Jackie Kradjian for their generosity.
 - F. The Diocesan Assembly took place on May 27, 1980. A proposal by the smaller parishes to lower dues was rejected by assembly

- G. Archbishop Torkom Manoogian paid St. Gregory's a surprise visit this past summer and was pleased with findings.
 - H. Dr. Rejebian expressed hope that Women's Guild will revitalize family dinners.
 - I. the Annual church dance chaired by Ralph and Dorothy Hatouhian was successful.
 - J. The Annual Church picnic held in July was very successful culminating in a group picture being taken of the Armenian Community.
 - K. A Celebration of the 50th anniversary of the consecration of St. Gregory's will be held on June 13th, 1981 in the form of a banquet-dinner dance and will be dedicated to the church's forefathers. Dr. Rejebian urged everyone to attend.
- VIII. Financial report and Budget for 1981 - were presented by Mr. Michael Ketchovian and Mr. John Bogdasarian respectively. Mr. Ketchovian reported that:
- A. St. Gregory's was more on solvent side this past year as compared to past with income from church operations being 32,158.40 and total expenditures amounting to 30,768.04 (26,911.69 in operating expenses alone) leaving a net realized income of 1390.36.
 - B. some 1200. accrued from dividends from money market investment.
 - C. Mr. John Bogdasarian then set a 1981 budget of 33,100. He also stressed parish members to combine church affairs if all possible to save heat.

IX. Old Business

- A. Mrs. Anoush Dekmejian enquired of Port Crane Property whereupon Dr. Rejebian informed parish members that the property had been sold with no net amount given as yet. The parcel sold for some 9000. dollars.
- B. Family Dinners - Dr. Rejebian thought that it was Ladies Guild authority in deciding which family to give dinner. Professor Dekmejian felt that monthly dinners were not only a source of income but a time to bring people together; a motion was then made by him stating that cultural programs (honouring major feast days and not mini cultural gatherings) be organized to coincide with family dinners, an example being that of St. Vartanantz on March 1st, Mrs. Louise Kontos on behalf of her and the Kachadourian Family took responsibility of the Vartanantz dinner in March.
- C. Mrs. Anoush Dekmejian, On Womens Guild Behalf at this time presented a 500. Dollar check to parish council.

X. Communications

XI. New Business

- A. Mr. Nishan Ketchovian made a motion to accept the proposed 1981 Budget. the Motion was seconded, very little discussion followed and carried unanimously.
- B. The Diocesan assembly for this year will be held in Watertown Massachusetts the first weekend in May.
- C. 50th Anniversary of Church Consecration - June 13th
 - Professor Dekmejian Stressed the importance to keep this date free
 - Mr. Michael Ketchovian suggested that the Armenian Reporter be notified soon.
- D. Date of 1982 Parish Assembly - Mr. John Bogdasarian motioned that this assembly be held the second Sunday of January (January, 10, 1982). The motion was seconded and voted for unanimously.

- XII. Report of nominating committee - Mrs. Marion Rejebian, on behalf of the nominating committee submitted 3 names, that of Mr. Deron Kradjian, Mr. Kevork papazian and Mr. Harry Sarkisian for nomination of the 3 Parish Council Positions. Those vacating their posts were Mr. Jack Injajigian, Prof. Hrair Dekmajean and Mr. Deron Kradjian (who consented to re-run)

A Motion was then made and seconded to close nominations. Since there the number of people being considered equalled the number of positions available the Secretary cast one vote nominating them to Parish council.

XIV. Adjournment - Motion was made and seconded. Upon giving the closing prayer (Performed by Hayr Soorb) the meeting adjourned at 3 PM, February 1., 1981.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jack S. Injajigian

Mr. Jack S Injajigian
Secretary Pro Tem