

1982 Parish Assembly Chairman's Report

This past year has certainly been a memorable one for our church. The early part of the year involved many time consuming meetings for the Parish Council and the various organizations and committees in preparation for the celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Consecration of our Church. A Banquet-Dance commemorating this momentous occasion was held on June 13, 1981 at the Holiday Inn Arena with Archbishop Torkom Manoogian presiding.

Despite initial skepticism and prophecies of failure by some of our parishioners, the success of this celebration exceeded our highest expectations not only monetarily but in overall participation of the parish as well. A beautiful commemorative booklet was published as a keepsake of this milestone in the history of our church. As I stated in a letter to the parish in March of 1981, it was actually our parents and predecessors who made this event possible through their sacrifice and foresight. They endured many hardships in order to establish a viable parish in a community with so relatively few Armenians. This was certainly a fitting tribute to them and a reminder that we who are enjoying the fruits of their labors have a solemn obligation not only to carry on but to improve upon our religious and cultural lives.

I would like to take this opportunity to again thank all of you who devoted so much time and effort for this worthwhile endeavor. I would particularly like to thank Louise Rockwell who did a magnificent job in chairing the Ad Committee, Ralph Hatounian who chaired the Banquet and Dance Committee and Mike Ketchoyian who recorded monies collected, etc. Lastly, I would like to thank Hayr Soorp, Carol Bogdasarian and my wife, Marion, who worked with me in the preparation of the booklet.

In the area of capital improvements, in the early part of the year, our Architectural Committee comprised of Carol Bogdasarian and Marion Rejebian made a detailed recommendation of improvements that should be undertaken. Following these recommendations, the Parish Council approved and implemented the following improvements to our church:

1. Insulation of the ceiling of the church
2. Painting of the interior of the church
3. Cleaning of the altar curtains
4. New carpeting throughout the church
5. Painting and replacement of some ceiling tiles
6. A new table which is on order by the Women's Guild for the entrance hall of the church

Out of necessity, a new furnace was installed as well as a new water line from the street. Landscaping will be completed on the front lawn in the spring, as well as a new sidewalk.

Our Pledge Dinner in May was held at the Vestal Steak House and I would again like to thank Harry and Jackie Kradjian who donate this superb dinner each year.

Also in May, your delegate, Mike Ketchoyian attended the Diocesan Assembly.

Our church picnic was held at State Park on July 26 and was unfortunately dampened by inclement weather.

We were honored in August by an unexpected visit by our Primate, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian.

In my last report, I recommended that more church dinners be undertaken since this is an important and necessary source of revenue for our church. The frequency of dinners has increased thanks to Kevork Papazian and Harry Sarkisian who have unselfishly volunteered their time and effort in preparing the many delicious dinners we have enjoyed this past year.

I would like to thank our Women's Guild under the Chairmanship of Ursula Findikyan for their worthwhile projects, monetary support and other help throughout the year.

Michael Findikyan, with our sponsorship, attended Choir Camp to improve his skills. I want to thank him for his consistent, unselfish devotion as our organist and Choir Director.

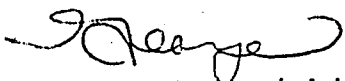
During the past year our Hayr Soorp has been celebrating Badarak approximately one Sunday a month at St. Paul's Armenian Church in Syracuse. I would like to thank him for cheerfully administering to our sister parish's needs since it is a hardship to travel particularly during the winter months. In Hayr Soorp's absence, our deacon, Prof. Hirair Dekmejian, has been leading the congregation in Jashou services.

In grateful recognition of Hirair's many years of dedicated service as an Archdeacon of our church, he and his wife, Anoosh, were honored with a surprise dinner and program at which a beautiful, engraved silver tray was presented to them as a token of our esteem.

Lastly, many thanks to Hayr Soorp, John Bogdasarian, Diran Kradjian, Kevork Papazian, Art Kachadourian, and Harry Sarkisian, who worked very hard this past year on the Parish Council and without who's support and cooperation my job would have been impossible.

It has been a fruitful year for St. Gregory's Parish and with continued dedicated, optimistic effort and God's help each successive year will be a better one.

Respectfully submitted,


Dr. George P. Rejebian