

Saint Gregory The Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church



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Chairman's Report 1989

During 1989, the Binghamton Parish of St. Gregory the Illuminator Apostolic Church was moved by three momentous events each of which, in its own way, lead to the heartening experiences which can be centered in this church.

During the past year we saw the horrors that struck our mother land, and our parish banded together to raise funds for assistance that exceeded all other groups on a per capita basis.

Again, our strong concern was proven when we welcomed Tomon Gregorian and Soukias Agalarian into our hearts and homes. There wasn't a member of this community that didn't receive more from our encounter with these fellow Armenians than the efforts that we expended.

Lastly, we visited the St. Nerses Armenian Seminary to witness the Graduation of Michael Findykian, followed by Michael's ordination, here in Binghamton, as a deacon. Once again, we congratulate Michael on the road he has chosen and we feel proud that our small Parish helped bring forth a lasting pillar of our greater church.

In recent years the inevitable tide of our migration and an aging parish have strained our community. Dissention has brought out personality conflicts that undermine the unity that we need if we are to survive. Presently, we are actively working to destroy that which we felt close to and nurtured for seven decades.

At a time when we rely on visiting priests to fulfill our needs, the dissention causes our parishioners to turn away from the caring of these clergy. The result is that we have limited our Baderaks to once a month, when in fact, there are an abundance of clergy who offer to visit our Parish.

Let there be no mistaken illusions, if the present conditions continue, our children, as few as they may be, will not receive an Armenian Church education and those of us who value the kinship that once surrounded this church will be left only with feelings of bitterness that came from a great loss. We must stop kidding ourselves, it's not the other person's fault, it's our fault. Our parish can only survive if we go out of our way to insure our survival. It's time to start caring about this church again.

My heart felt thanks go out to the clergy who continuously travel to Binghamton to see to our needs. These include Arch Torkon Manougian, Father Merob Semerjian, Father Goren Godanian and Father Kornig Halogian. I extend my thanks to Hagop Injigian, who has devoted himself selflessly to our Parish, to Adrienne Kachadourian, our Sunday School and choir director, to Pam Russel, who teaches the young class, to Alice Bogdasarian, our Diocesan Delagate, to the Officers of the Womens' Guild, to our Parish Council who show up regularly for our monthly meetings and to Kevork Papazian, who keeps us well fed.

And lastly, to Mike Bogdasarian, who traveled to Armenia as our good will Ambassador.

Thank you.