

ARMENIAN CHURCH OF WESTCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

1975 ANNUAL REPORT

The second Parish Council of the Armenian Church of Westchester, elected by the Parish Assembly on January 26, 1975, met on a biweekly basis from February, 1975, through January, 1976, under the presidency of our pastor, Der Karekin Kasparian, and the chairmanship of Apkar Omartian. Addition "special" meetings were held when needed.

MEETINGS At its meetings the Parish Council discusses and decides upon policy for the operation of the church. Long-range objectives such as fund-raising and the purchase of church property are also of concern. Our parish has been represented at regional and diocesan gatherings by members of the Parish Council. During the May 29-31 period, the Parish Council met with the Archbishop, the Most Reverend Torkom Manoogian, for a most valuable exchange of ideas regarding issues affecting the Armenian Church of Westchester.

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS Among the numerous social functions of 1975, one of the earliest and most enjoyable was the Spring Kef Night, held April 19. On June 8, the Armenian Church of Westchester actively participated in the White Plains Outdoor Arts Festival and Heritage Day. Our efforts resulted in much praise for our contribution, including the lulehkebobs and the performances of the Antranig Dance Group.

The annual church picnic, August 31, was well-attended and provided those present with a combination of good food and fellowship. In September the A.C.W. took part in the One World Festival at St. Vartan's Cathedral, and in October we held our first Autumn Festival Dance which was an early sell-out. An afternoon tea was given and well-received on November 16 for the pastor and parishoners of St. Andrews Episcopal Church.

WORSHIP Until September 7, our church was located at the Seventh Day Adventist Church, 712 North Broadway, Yonkers. There we held our Badarak and on February 19, initiated a series of five Wednesday evening Lenten services. On April 27, we had a special program commemorating the 60th anniversary of the genocide of Armenian martyrs. A month later, the Archbishop, the Most Reverend Torkom Manoogian, celebrated the Divine Liturgy and ordained Michael Chevian and Michael Zeytoonian as sub-deacons. September saw the site of our services shifted from Yonkers to St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Hartsdale. A St. Stephen's evening candlelight service December 24 and a Christmas service and chronnek have been among the many beautiful and inspirational worship services held in the lovely chapel of this church.

In conclusion, we should like to thank the members of the Armenian Church of Westchester for their continuing participation and indispensable support of church activities. It is largely through the selfless work of our membership that we have been able to come this far, and only with our members' continued encouragement and whole-hearted commitment can we proceed further. Lastly, we are deeply indebted to our pastor for his unwavering devotion and leadership and to the St. Nerses seminarians for their tireless efforts and dedication toward the success of our worship services and education programs. For such assistance we are most grateful.

Apkar Omartian
Chairman

Ara Ishkanian
Recording Secretary