

Report of 81st Diocesan Assembly

The 81st Annual Assembly of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America was held on May 5, 6, and 7, 1983 at the Sts. Joachim and Anne Armenian Church at Palos Heights, Illinois.

Elected as Chairman of the Assembly was Judge John Najarian and as Vice-Chairman, Judge Vincent Gurahian.

Much of the first session was occupied with organization of the Assembly, including election of Assembly officers, and receiving the message of His Holiness Vazken I, Catholicos and Supreme Patriarch of All Armenians, and of His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America.

At subsequent sessions reports of various committees were delivered and considerable time was devoted to the report of the Diocesan Unity Committee delivered by Judge Najarian.

There have been joint meetings but little progress, partly due to the inability to agree on a common approach. Efforts are continuing, however, and the Assembly gave a vote of confidence to our Committee with a direction to report by the next Assembly.

The Treasurer's report indicated there was an excess of revenues over expenses of approximately \$32,000 and that balances of various Diocesan Funds increased, in large part by the success of the Archbishop's Pacesetter Mortgage Contribution.

Two new lay members were elected to the Diocesan Council, Vincent Gurahian, who replaced Kachadoor Kazarian, and Ann Kasparian who replaced Louise Simone.

Clergy members elected to the Council were Rev. Fr. Mampre Kouzouian, who was reelected, and Very Rev. Fr. Vazken Keshishian who replaced Very Rev. Paren Avedikian.

One Amendment was passed, namely, an increase of two lay members to the Diocesan Council. This will be implemented at the next Assembly by electing one new member for a term of one year and one for a term of three years thereby maintaining the method of electing half the Council members every two years.

Passed for the first time, and requiring passage at the next Assembly if it is to be effective, was a proposed Amendment which will require submission of the budget to Assembly Delegates and Parish Councils 30 days in advance of the Diocesan Assembly.

Proposals were passed to establish a fund for theological education of students preparing to serve as clergy, with an initial appropriation of \$25,000; and for annual training programs for Diocesan clergy.

The Assembly adjourned at 4:55 P.M. on May 7 with the 82nd Assembly scheduled to be held at Fair Lawn, New Jersey, St. Leon Parish.

Respectfully submitted,



Vincent Gurahian
Diocesan Delegate