

January 28, 1973

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 1972

The Annual Parish Assembly, which was held on Sunday, February 20, 1972, elected the following members for the 1972 parish council:

Mr. Robert Jezairian  
Mr. Perry Shegirian  
Mr. George Maljanian  
Mrs. Annie Khachian

For personal reasons, Mrs. Khachian declined her duties. Therefore, Mr. Sam Jevanjian, having had the next highest number of votes, joined the parish council for a one year term. A parish council meeting held on March 20th, 1972, elected the following officers:

Dr. Berdj Harabedian, Chairman  
Mr. George Maljanian, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Richard Kalfaian, Treasurer  
Mr. Sam Jevanjian, Asst. Treasurer  
Mr. Ralph Trapasso, Secretary  
Mr. Perry Shegirian, Advisor  
Mr. Robert Jezairian, Advisor

A total of 25 meetings were held since March 20, 1972.

Upon the recommendation of the parish assembly, a special general assembly was held on April 17, 1972, in order to elect a building committee and a bazaar committee.

During the year of 1972, the following affairs were sponsored by the parish council:

Armenian Martyrs' Day: On April 23rd, Dr. Haig Solakian was the guest speaker, and the documentary film, "Where Are My People?" was viewed.

The Church Name Day: On May 14th, Mr. Ed Chapian was invited as main speaker, and special awards for recognition was given to parishioners who had served the church.

Annual Church Picnic: On August 6th, and held at the Boothe Memorial Park in Stratford.

Farewell party for Fr. Kalfayan on September 23rd.

Welcome party for Fr. Arakelian on October 23rd.

Also with the Ladies Guild and the Mr. & Mrs. Club, a combined committee for a New Year's Eve Party was organized.

As a part of the reassignment of Pastors, a communication from the Diocese, dated August 25, 1972, informed us of the appointment of Fr. Levon Arakelian as the new Pastor of our church. His annual stipend is to be \$ 6,830.00, which also includes his traveling expenses, and clergyman's insurance. In addition to this amount is the cost of his lodging.

Father Levon assumed his new duties on Oct. 8th, and he is currently available to our community every week from Friday noon until Monday night. The Parish Council, with a circular dated Sept. 9, 1972, kept the parishioners informed of this new arrangement.

For the past 3½ months, we have had the distinct pleasure of working with Fr. Levon. In spite of this short time, we have found his experience, his enthusiasm and his ability extremely helpful, and I am completely convinced that his presence in our community has proven to be an enormous asset and motivation for success and advancement. During the year of 1972, the Pari Loor, our monthly church bulletin, was published regularly by the parish council until the December issue, when Der Levon took the task upon himself.

In order to provide a private office for the priest, and also to save the church heat expenses, the parish council decided to build a small room in the back. Thanks to Mr. Robert Jezairian and his brother, Steve, this project is now completed and ready for use.

Also during the past year, every Sunday morning, at least two parish council members <sup>will</sup> are present to serve the church and its parishioners.

Ladies and gentlemen, it has been a real pleasure to work with the present parish council members, who have been so cooperative and helpful in every way possible. As we complete this harmonious, peaceful year, I wish to extend my sincere thanks to each of them, for helping make my job as chairman a bit easier. Also my deep appreciation to all the church organizations, namely the Ladies Guild, the Mr. & Mrs. Club and Sunday School Staff, as well as the Pledge Committee, Bazaar Committee and New Year's Eve Party Committee for a successful year.

I cannot complete this report without mentioning our competent organist, Mrs. Ginny Kalfaian, ~~and~~ Deacon Randy Arakelian and alternating deacons <sup>along with the choir members</sup> for their faithful service every Sunday morning.

Finally, last but by no means the least, my thanks to all the parishioners, whose financial and moral support has kept, and will continue to keep, the doors of the Holy Ascension Armenian Church of Bridgeport wide open.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dr. Berdj Harabedian M.D.  
Chairman, Parish Council