

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT - FEB. 2, 1992

A YEAR AGO THIS TIME AMERICA WAS AT WAR WITH IRAQ AND OUR HEARTS AND MINDS WERE WITH OUR TROOPS. FORTUNATELY OUR COUNTRY CAME OUT OF THAT CONFLICT WITH A MINIMUM LOSS OF LIFE.

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THE SOVIET UNION WOULD DISSOLVE, THAT THE SHIFT OF THE WORLD ORDER WOULD CHANGE SO DRASTICALLY AND WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT ANOTHER COUNTRY WOULD OCCUPY OUR HEARTS AND MINDS NOW IN A VERY DIFFERENT KIND OF STRUGGLE, A STRUGGLE OF SURVIVAL. THE NEWLY FORMED DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA.

ARMENIA HAS MANY DIFFICULT YEARS AHEAD AND AS MY HUSBAND, NAZARETH, WHO RECENTLY RETURNED FROM A MERCY MISSION AND WITNESSED FIRST HAND THE HARDSHIPS, SAYS IT WILL TAKE A MINIMUM OF TWO GENERATIONS TO OVERCOME 74 YEARS OF TOTALITARIANISM. BUT THERE IS HOPE IN HIS HEART AS WELL AS MINE. THEY WILL NOT FALL VICTIM TO ANY FORM OF POLITICAL INSURGENCY THAT WOULD JEOPARDIZE ANY OF THEIR NEW FOUND FREEDOMS NO MATTER HOW HARD THE STRUGGLE MIGHT BE AND WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF PRESIDENT LEVON TER PETROSSIAN, POLITICAL STABILITY WILL WIN OUT.

SOMEONE RECENTLY SAID ARMENIA COULD BECOME THE NEXT TAIWAN OR BETTER YET A WONDERFUL VACATION SPOT WITH SKI LODGES IN THE MAJESTIC MOUNTAIN RANGES OR SUMMER RESORTS IN THE BEAUTIFUL LAKE AREAS. WHO REALLY KNOWS THE POSSIBILITIES? WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT WHAT HAS HAPPENED WOULD HAPPEN?

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT JUST THIS WEEK, WED. JAN. 29th, THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL APPROVE BY CONCENSUS ARMENIA'S APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE UN. THE FINAL STEP IN THE MEMBERSHIP PROCESS FOR ARMENIA WILL INVOLVE APPROVAL BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHICH IS EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE THIS MONTH. OUR FLAG WILL SOON FLY WITH THE OTHER 166 MEMBERS OF THIS WORLD BODY.

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT 61 YEARS AGO WHEN HOLY ASCENSION, WITH DEDICATED AND HARD-WORKING VISIONARIES WOULD COME TO REALIZE SUCH TANGIBLE FRUITS OF THEIR LABOR. A CHURCH WHO STRUGGLED WITH MUCH THE SAME TENACITY AND FAITH THAT ARMENIA IS EXPERIENCING NOW. IF ARMENIA HAS THIS SAME DEVOTED, DEDICATED SPIRIT OF BRIDGEPORT WE WILL NOT ONLY SURVIVE BUT THRIVE!

WHAT I AM TRYING TO LEAD TO IS OUR PROBLEMS TODAY ARE MINOR COMPARED TO THE STRUGGLE OF YEARS GONE BY BUT NEVERTHELESS THE JOB OF RUNNING THIS CHURCH WITH ALL OF ITS DIFFICULTIES HAVE BEEN SURMOUNTABLE THANKS TO A DEDICATED AND HARD WORKING PARISH COUNCIL, ALL THE CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS AND THROUGH THE LEADERSHIP OF DER HYRE.

THIS YEAR OUR PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY LIGHTER THEN PREVIOUS ONES. ALL IN ALL IT WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR. I WILL COVER A FEW ITEMS.

- 1- AT LAST YEARS PARISH ASSEMBLY, THE ARMENIAN SCHOOL DONATED \$1,500 TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF A NEW COMPUTER. A FACT FINDING COMMITTEE WAS FORMED, MEMBERS BEING MARK GAVOOR, RICHARD KALFAIAN AND PATRICK KANE. THEIR JOB WAS TO PRESENT US WITH THEIR RECOMMENDATION AND THE PARISH COUNCIL WOULD MAKE THE FINAL DECISION. THEY DID A FINE JOB. AN IBM WAS RECOMMENDED AND SHORTLY AFTER THIS CONCLUSION - PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER VARTAN VARTANIAN FOUND AN IBM COMPUTER WHICH WAS NO LONGER UTILIZED BY THE COMPANY HE WORKS FOR (MORGANTI CORP). MORGANTI OFFERED TO DONATE THIS COMPUTER AND WE ACCEPTED SINCE IT IS IN GOOD WORKING CONDITION, AND WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL TO THEM.
- 2- THE ROOF OVER THE LIBRARY WAS LEAKING SO WE PUT IN AN INSURANCE CLAIM AND WAS COMPENSATED FOR THIS PROBLEM. WE WERE ABLE TO FIX THE ROOF IN JULY WITH A 12 YEAR GUARANTEE - THE BEST OFFER AVAILABLE AFTER MUCH INVESTIGATION.
- 3- THREE RENOVATIONS WERE COMPLETED WITH DONATED FUNDS. NAMELY THE CONFERENCE AREA DIRECTLY BEHIND THE ALTAR, A NEW LIBRARY AND CHOIR ROOM.

THE LIBRARY WILL BE OPENED ON FEB. 23, 1992 AND IS NAMED THE HARABEDIAN-MARDIGIAN LIBRARY.

THE CHOIR ROOM WILL BE OPENED ON PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 1992 AND WILL BE CALLED THE DER MEGERDICHIAN-STAMBOLIAN CHOIR ROOM.

THE CONFERENCE AREA WILL BE OPENED ON JUNE 7, 1992 AND WILL BE NAMED THE JEVARJIAN-KHACHADOURIAN CONFERENCE ROOM.

OUR SINCEREST APPRECIATION TO THE ABOVE FAMILIES.

- 4- DUE TO ARMENIAN REFUGESS WHO FLED FROM AZERBAIJAN AND NEEDING HELP, A NEEDY FUND WAS ESTABLISHED. OUR PEOPLE GENEROUSLY GAVE AND WE WERE ABLE TO HELP THEM GET SETTLED.

- 5- WE HAD A PROBLEM WITH THE SEPTIC SYSTEM IN THE FRONT OF THE CHURCH- THE BATHROOMS KEPT BACKING UP AND AFTER A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION A NEW PUMP WAS NEEDED AND SUBSEQUENTLY INSTALLED. WE HAVE BEEN TROUBLE FREE SO FAR. THIS IS THE REASON CARS CANNOT PARK IN THIS AREA.
- 6- AN UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT OCCURED. OUR VCR WAS STOLEN AS WELL AS THE ONE IN THE NURSERY SCHOOL. WE WERE ABLE TO REPLACE OURS WITH THE FUNDS FROM THE INSURANCE CLAIM. THE NURSERY SCHOOL TOOK CARE OF THEIR OWN COVERAGE BUT TO THIS DAY, WE SO NOT KNOW WHO THE CULPRIT WAS.
- 7- ON A POSITIVE NOTE - IN MAY AT THE DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY IN TENEFLY, NEW JERSEY, DER HYRE WAS ELECTED TO THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL FOR FOUR YEARS. IT MEETS ONCE A MONTH. WE WISH HIM GOOD LUCK IN HIS TERM.

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT AT OUR 60TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET A GENEROUS BENEFACTOR, BY THE NAME OF TONY JEVARJIAN, WOULD ATTEND ALTHOUGH VERY SICK FROM FLORIDA, AND DONATE \$25,000 TO HELP BURN THE MORTGAGE. HE TOLD ME HE HAD BEEN FOLLOWING THE PROGRESS OF HOLY ASCENSION THROUGH THE YEARS AND AFTER MEETING WITH DER HYRE AND MY ANSWERING HIS QUESTIONS FOR AN HOUR AND A HALF AS TO THE GOALS AND DIRECTION OF THIS CHURCH HE WOULD BE VERY HAPPY TO DONATE THIS SUM TO FACILITATE OUR GOALS. MR. JEVARJIAN PASSED AWAY SHORTLY THEREAFTER AND IT SADDENS ME TO KNOW HE WILL NOT BE WITH US WHEN WE ACCOMPLISH THIS GOAL BUT I'M SURE HE WILL BE WITH US IN SPIRIT. MAY GOD REST HIS SOUL.

PROCEEDS FROM THE BANQUET THE SUNDAY ^{& ARMENIAN} SCHOOL DANCE (WHICH ARE NORMALLY APPLIED TO THE GENERAL OPERATING FUND) WERE ALSO GIVEN TO THE MORTGAGE BURNING COMMITTEE. A TOTAL OF \$33,100 THUS FAR HAS BEEN TURNED OVER BY THE PARISH COUNCIL.

APPROXIMATELY \$70,000 IS LEFT ON THE MORTGAGE. AT THE BANQUET PARISHIONERS PLEDGED APPROXIMATELY \$20,000 WHICH WILL BE PAID UP IN MAY - REDUCING THE MORTGAGE FURTHER TO APPROXIMATELY \$50,000. FURTHER DONATIONS ARE NEEDED TO ACCOMPLISH OUR GOAL. FROM JAN. 1984 TO JAN. 1992 THE MORTGAGE HAS BEEN REDUCED FROM \$205,000 TO APPROX. \$70,000, AND HOPEFULLY BY MAY OF 92 TO ZERO.

THE FRONTRUNNER FOR OUR ENERGETIC AND PROGRESSIVE COMMUNITY IS OUR DER UNTZAG. HE CONTINUALLY STRIVES TO RAISE MONEY SO WE DON'T HAVE TO REACH INTO THE OPERATING FUND UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. OUR COMMUNITY IS HARD WORKING AND DEDICATED BUT THIS ONLY HAPPENS WITH THE RIGHT LEADERSHIP. YOU SHOULD KNOW, BECAUSE OF THE RECESSION AND

THE STRUGGLE TO PAY OFF THE MORTGAGE, DER UNTZAG TOLD ME HE WOULD NOT ACCEPT A RAISE THIS YEAR. I FELT HE WAS WRONG NOT TO TAKE AT LEAST A COST OF LIVING RAISE BUT HE WOULD NOT CHANGE HIS MIND.

IN CLOSING. MY FOUR YEARS ON THE PARISH COUCII. TWO AS YOUR CHAIRMAN. TWO AS AN ADVISOR, PLUS TWO YEARS PRIOR AS THE WOMEN'S GUILD CHAIRPERSON IN DER HYER'S TIME HAS GIVEN ME MUCH GRATIFICATION, MAINLY WORKING WITH FINE PEOPLE ON BOTH THE GUILD AND THE PARISH COUNCILS. THIS YEAR OUR COUNCIL MEMBERS WERE GARO GARABEDIAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN; TOM DABAKIAN, RECORDING SECRETARY; SHAVARSH PAPAZIAN, TRFASURER; RICHARD NAJARIAN, ASS'T SECRETARY; CONNIE KASPARIAN, ASS'T TREASURER; ADVISORS CHARLES GOORHIGIAN, HERBERT AVAKIAN AND VARTAN VARTANIAN. I THANK THEM ALL FOR THEIR COOPERATION AND DEDICATION.

THE EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT ME HOW A PARISH IS OPERATED AND AFFORDED ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET TO KNOW MANY OF YOU AND TO HAVE MADE MANY FRIENDS.

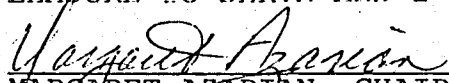
SOMEONE ONCE SAID "A STRANGER IS A FRIEND I HAVEN'T MET YET". A PARTICULAR STRANGER BECAME A GOOD FRIEND. BACK IN 1985 AFTER RECUPERATING FROM A POTENTIALLY LIFE THREATENING OPERATION DER HRYE CONVINCED ME TO BECOME INVOLVED. IT'S GOOD TO KEEP BUSY HE SAID. LITTLE DID I KNOW! BUT WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT A WONDERFUL FRIENDSHIP WOULD EVOLVE.

OUR WORKING LIVES HAVE MOSTLY RUN VERY SMOOTHLY, BUT WE HAVE HAD SOME ROCKY TIMES BECAUSE OF DIFFERENCES OF OPINION BUT WE HAVE ALWAYS RESPECTED EACH OTHERS VIEWPOINT AND WORKED ON RESOVING THE PROBLEMS TOGETHER. IT HAS NOT BEEN BORING!

I AM SAYING THIS IN APPRECIATION FOR HIS DEEP RESPECT AND FEEL NO MATTER WHAT DIRECTION MY LIFE WILL TAKE ME (SINCE I WILL NOT BE ON THE COUNCIL ANY LONGER) OUR FRIENDSHIP WILL CONTINUE BECAUSE OF THE FOUNDATION WE HAVE BUILT. THANK YOU DER HYRE FOR YOUR HELP, SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE, YES AND DEEP RESPECT.

AT THIS TIME, THE PARISH COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT YOU WITH THIS * SMALL TOKEN OF APPRECIATION FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND HARD WORK HERE AT HOLY ASCENSION.

LASTLY BUT NOT LEAST, I THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT - IT HAS BEEN MY PLEASURE TO SERVE AND I WILL REMEMBER THESE DAYS FONDLY!


MARGARET AZARTAN, CHAIRMAN
1992