

THE 94th DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY REPORT

The Assembly was hosted by the St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Armenian church, in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, on May 2-5, 1996. His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, the Primate of the Eastern Diocese, led the Assembly in the opening worship service at 2:30 p.m.

. The assembly officers were elected, chairman, Garo Garibian, second chairman, Arthur Mardigian, Armenian secretary, Ver. Rev. Fr. Nareg Berberian and English secretary Berjoohy Haigazian.

The 93rd Diocesan Assembly minutes were accepted as amended.

A message from His Holiness, Karekin I, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of all Armenians was read..

PRIMATE'S ADDRESS: His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, the Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America took a historic step towards the unity process that has been going on for some time with this announcement during his address to the Assembly," ... I am very pleased to announce today that, in accordance with the prerogatives granted me as Diocesan Primate, I shall allow clergymen serving under the jurisdiction of the Catholicate of Cilicia to participate in liturgical functions, with my permission as Primate. On each occasion, the local priest should apply to the Primate for permission to hold a joint service. I am taking this initiative in the full consciousness that it is an important step towards genuine hierarchical unity."

His Eminence also stated that the year 1996 is dedicated to our Youth.

1996 Diocesan Assembly Panels were directed towards the Teens, College/Graduate School and the Young Professionals of the Armenian Church.

Youth representing different parishes reported on some of their activities in their church.

ST. NERSESS ARMENIAN SEMINARY REPORT was presented by Rev. Fr. Arakel Aljalian, Administrator. \$1 million was raised for the renovations of the seminary and for the extension of the library dedicated to the memory of the late Archbishop Tiran Nersioian. There are three full-time students .. There are seven students attending the Pre-Theological studies . There were three graduates in 1995.

. The 1994-1995 actual budget was \$237,187. Some of the seminary's activities are the publication of the St. Nerses Theological Review, and numerous summer programs for high school and college students.

Armenian Church Endowment Fund (ACEF) Report was presented by Col. Victor Arzoomanian. Donations in 1995: \$9,003,913.76; Total assets of ACEF as of December 31, 1995: \$ 29,642,768.91; Income earned in 1995: \$1,674,620.58. The total number of donors: 730.

ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION (ACYOA)

. The following are activities of the ACYOA, the Armenia Service Program (ASP) and the Sports weekend, which will be held on Memorial Weekend in Cape Cod. The ACYOA is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

WOMEN'S GUILD CENTRAL COUNCIL (WGCC) REPORT ,

. They consist of 46 Women's Guilds with 1,851 members. Their most successful project is the CASP program directed by Julie Ashekian. Casp has raised over \$576,000 with only 7% overhead cost. Casp sponsors four orphanages in Armenia which house about 1,500 children.

The Women's Guild is celebrating their tenth anniversary.

School children's baza

NEW BUSINESS: The Assembly voted in favor of collecting \$25,000 for "Etchmiadzin Luma " (contribution) to be sent as requested by His Holiness, Karekin I. Each parish will be assessed for it based on membership.

FINANCIAL REPORT: The 1996 Budget was passed with \$3,573,260 in total revenues and \$3,573,260 in total expenditures.

THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTIONS:

AUDITING COMMITTEE: Karen Dederyan , Arthur Mardigian , Dean Shahinian , Alternates Charles Guleserian and George Hagopian.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Ver. Rev. Fr. Varoujan Kabaradian, George Nahabedian, Oscar Tatosian, Kai Kazarian, Richard Norsigian..

PROPOSALS COMMITTEE: Rev. Fr. Vazken Kouzouian, Aram Hintlian, Jr., Sahag Sahagian, John Amboian.

DIOCESAN BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Helen Mardigian

Respectfully submitted,

Azniv Amirkhanian, Delegate